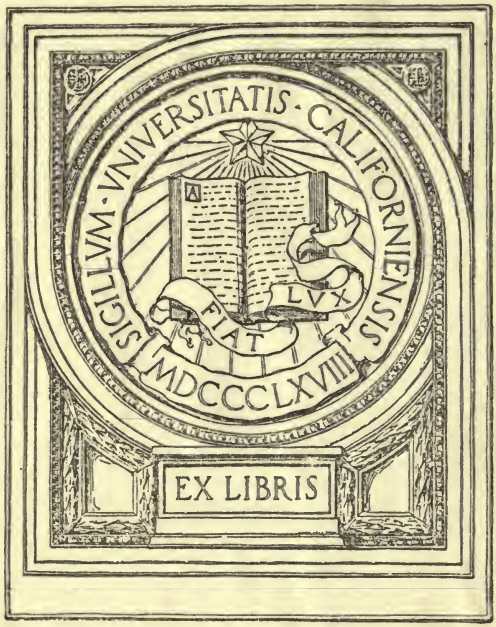
Views of Yucatan



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Señor Dón Enrique Muñoz Aristegui, Governor of Yucatan.

VIEWS

ON and OF

YUCATAN

BESIDES

NOTES UPON PARTS OF THE STATE OF CAMPECHE

AND

THE TERRITORY OF QUINTANA ROO.

Collected during a long residence in the Peninsula.

BY

HENRY A. CASE

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To my Wife.

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NOTE.

The fact that the compositors of this work were perfectly ignorant of English, will to an extent explain the reason of various mistakes inadvertently creeping in, notwithstanding considerable care was observed in proof reading. Attention is called to the following corrections:

ERRATA.

Page	Line	Read	instead of
8	7	metres	feet
13	14	gauge	gange
34	26	three	eighe
37	10	or	ot
59	33	service	serviee
64	29	doubtful	doubtfil
83	20	buildings mentioned	buildings of
93	8	of the doorways	or the doorways
102	12	alto	atlo
102	22	below it	belo wit
114	14	Sanicte	Sannacte
118	26	mounds	mound
132	14	hark	dark
134	33	executed	executud
140	14	of the edifice	of edifice
168	30	that he considered	that the
169	3	surroundings	surroundoings
169	15	hieroglyphics	hieroglhypics
174	32	that early in	in early that iw
184	23	in many places	in mani places
195	32	Chunhuhu or	Chunhuhu an
225	26	buildings	buildings

INTRODUCTION.

The following lines must be accepted in the aggregate as a collection of private notes, no pretence at authorship being intended. A series of comprehensive memoranda for personal satisfaction only, that has become so voluminous, that possibly other people may derive more interest and information from its perusal than is to be obtained from any other individual source, especially as such is not always available.

As a rule, my most direct and authentic data has been culled from the works of Mr John L. Stephens, although also having had at my disposal a large library of reference works, such as those by Cogolludo, Carrillo Ancona, Juan Francisco Molina, Plongeon, Prescott, Lever, and various others, but Stephens has generally been before me in all the details of my studies, and has left his especial footmarks or tracks for me to follow in, and guide me, wherever necessary to investigate a troublous question. I have availed myself therefore of the marvellous experience contained in his very excellent and interesting books, and freely admit him as the only reliable basis or foundation for my statements, as I notice all modern writers do, whether openly or indirectly.

I must also express my obligation to the recent very able Consul of the United States, Mr Edward H. Thompson, for the valuable assistance he has given me, he having been in this neighbourhood for nearly a quarter of a century, and whose thorough and unequalled practical and theoretical knowledge of the ancient ones, has been of the greatest benefit to me. He during the time stated has to a great extent devoted himself to

study and investigation, the consequence is, that to day, no living person can dare challenge his assertions, or in vulgar parlance, presume to hold the proverbial candle to him, with respect to the knowledge of Yucatan antiquities and folk-lore.

It must be remembered that the writer has been a continuous resident in Mexico for over quarter of a century, and in Yucatan for nearly five years, during which time, it is only reasonable to suppose his opportunities have been great, in collecting the veritable information given in these notes, and although there is a notable lack of concordance in what is offered, and that published by other writers, it must not be forgotten that many people gifted with fertile imaginations, and possessing a well developed bump of credulity, are only too prone to put on paper what they think they have seen or heard, from apparently a reliable source during their hurried trip, often as has been stated by an American, perpetuating as facts, what they have seen from the car window, as the train hurriedly carried them across country. There are instances also, too well known, that, writers are too liable to air their private grudges or petty annoyances in print.

We remember once being told by a Norwegian captain, that he considered the inhabitants of London thoroughly corrupt, the men liars, thieves and swindlers, and the women highly immodest and vitiated; upon investigation, it was ascertained that he drew his inferences and conclusions from the denizens of Ratcliffe Highway, Billingsgate, and Whitechapel, the only parts of London, those near the Docks, that he had occasion to know, and upon which alone he formed his conclusions.

We fear we might apply similar foundations to a great deal of so-called traveller's experiences, for we have unfortunately recently seen works on Yucatan, containing information of such baseless description, as to be thoroughly unreliable, and not worthy of a moment's consideration, but still the remarks made are apt to cause wrong impressions to be formed, besides injudiciously and uselessly hurting people's susceptibilities, by publishing gross insults of personal, and positive defamation of national character.

Excuse should nevertheless be given, as frequently travellers are very easily taken in, their gullibility being only too noticeable, people bright and intelligent in their own countries, are very often the easiest imposed upon abroad.

In the year 1822, an Englishman living in Guatemala, having access to, and accidentally finding among the archives of that country, a document, calling attention to the fact, that marvellous ruins of an Egyptian character had been found, in the Mexican States of Yucatan and Chiapas, and which document he translated and published. It produced no effect whatever, as there was no means of getting there, or convenient line of steamers communicating with the locality; nothing was done in consequence or interest excited except in very isolated cases, Lord Kingsborough in particular subsequently published a magnificent work on the ruins he had seen, but which publication costing a prohibitive sum, was out of the reach of many, consequently years went past, and people remained unaware of the priceless prehistoric treasures that were in many instances fast going to irretrievable decay. However in the year 1831, "The Literary Gazette" possessing a large circulation in London, published an article to the effect, that if a like discovery had been made in Italy, Greece, Egypt or Asia, and within the reach of European travel, it would have created an interest not inferior to the discovery of Herculaneum or Pompeii, or the ruins of Paestum, but even this announcement caused no excitement, and from investigation, we find that nothing was done until the year 1841, when an American scientist, a Mr John L. Stephens, together with an English artist, a Mr. Catherwood, under instructions from the United States Government, came to the scenes in question, and subsequently published an illustrated work, that has become the basis and foundation of all archaeological treatises that have from time to time appeared since, on the local ruins, besides having been published at a more or less popular price, and by which means alone, thousands of persons have read about the marvellous remains, and proportionately speaking tens of people have come to the places to have ocular demonstration of what they had read.

Now that there is means of arriving at the various scenes, it certainly seems strange that more hunters of the beautiful do not come, for nothing could be easier or within the reach of many, to pass the severest months of winter in this land where people grumble at having a perpetual blue sky, what more can be wanted than good steamers, a first class hotel (a photograph of which appears among these pages) where arrangements can be made for personally conducted tours or otherwise, to some of the most astonishing ruins in the world.

A monopoly is held by the Ward Line, which most efficiently operates a weekly service of steamers, at present leaving New York on Thursdays, and arriving at Progreso on the following Wednesdays, calling at Havana en route. Allusion is made elsewhere, to very advantageous arrangements which are offered in the interest of passengers.

These pages interleaved with photographs will perhaps act as an incentive to trippers and sight seers generally, the book is published at a low price with that object in view, and should it attain that end, the compiler will be gladdened with the thought, that his notes were not altogether aimessly written.

MAP SHOWING DISTANCES AND ROUTES FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE RUINED CITIES OF YUCATAN
UNITED STATES
ATLANTIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
BOSTON
NEW YORK
CHICAGO
CINCINNATI
CHARLESTON
SAVANNAH
JACKSONVILLE
NEW ORLEANS
MOBILE
TAMPA
WARD LINE
BAHAMA ISLANDS
HAVANA
CUBA
ISLE OF PINES
JAMAICA
YUCATAN CHANNEL
PROGRESO
YUCATAN
CAMPECHE
QUINTANA ROO
MEXICO

CHAPTER I.

PROGRESO

A long low bank of white sand, the first thing to be seen, on approaching Yucatan, by the only existing accessible route, the sea, certainly does not tend to excite one, or in any way suggest the many different things, both interesting and wonderful, that we are about to see, before we wend our way home again.

On arriving off Progreso, the only Port of Entry of the State of Yucatan, the good ship generally drops her anchor, fully five miles out from the shore, on account of the remarkably shallow nature of the water, and after the Medical Officer of the Port, has come on board, and inspected the passengers, they take the ship's tender, that is waiting for them, and go on shore.

On putting foot on terra firma, one is not impressed with the place, still remembering where they are, the well known impressive lines are apt to enter into their minds:

"World wrongly called the New! this clime was old
When first the Spaniard came, in search of gold.
Age after age its shadowy wings had spread,
And man was born, and gathered to the dead;
Cities arose, ruled, dwindled to decay,
Empires were formed, then darkly swept away:
Race followed race, like cloud-shades 'oer the field,
The stranger still to strangers doomed to yield.
The last grand line that swayed these plains and waves
Like Israel, wandered long 'mid wilds and caves,
Then settling in their Canaan, cities reared,
Fair science wooed, a milder God revered,
'Till too invading Europe bowed their pride,
And pomp, art, power, with Moctezuma died."

Once on shore, you do not stop longer than necessary in Progreso, merely to have your baggage examined, this is a very important detail, and certainly demands a more than usual amount of patience, the officials being altogether too assertive in their manner of treating foreigners, and decidedly too rigid and exacting in making their examinations, while another local peculiarity, apt to forcibly impress strangers, is that baggage coming from Vera Cruz or Tampico, or in fact, any other port in the country, which presumably has already been examined on entering the Republic, is still susceptible of being again overhauled here, and even baggage leaving the port, for any other place, either in the country or elsewhere, has to go through the same ordeal. There may be reasons for this stringency, and it is very palpable what they are, but we regret that it is rather late in the day, as many boast that all the good things exciting one's cupidity, have already been purloined, and taken out of the country. But the average globe trotter, not knowing this detail, will naturally think, that at last, he has found something new under the sun, for certainly here, he meets with new experience, not likely to be forgot-

Th henequen plant, the agave sisalensis, in various stages of its growth, and from which source Yucatan has been enriched by about two hundred millions of gold dollars since the year 1880.

ten. The excessive severity, and attending annoyance, met with here, is greatly to be regretted, as it has a tendency of preventing people repeating their visit, they naturally not wishing to be subjected to the same objectionable treatment, the second time.

But when the annoyance it as last over, and the gantlet run, while you are waiting for the train to take you to Merida, the capital city of the State of Yucatan, twenty three miles distant, you can kill a little time, and calm you excited nerves, by reading the following notes on the place.

Comparatively speaking, Progreso has only recently come into existence and notoriety, all export and import business having formerly been transacted at Sisal, an insignificant port, or rather roadstead to the West, but which place, nevertheless, gave its name to the world widely known fibre "Sisal," by which name, it is recognised by many, although in commerce, the name "Henequen" is generally applied.

In the year 1846, the site of the present city of Progreso, being considered by Merida Capitalists, and Shippers in general, infinitely more suitable to their interests than the old place, for the exportation of their great and only production henequen, they applied for, and obtained authority to make it a port of entry, and a partial removal from Sisal took place. In 1871, the new port was authoritively opened to commerce, and in 1875, Progreso was, strange to say, proclaimed a City, although there is absolutely nothing about it to suggest more than a very ordinary town built on a sandbank.

The neighbourhood has recently suffered from two very considerable conflagrations, the houses hitherto, in many instances, having been made of wood, and therefore only too susceptible to combustion, this is now interdicted by the authorities, all buildings hereafter, being required to be of stone, brick or iron, thereby eliminating liability of another fire.

The geographical position of Progreso, is 89° 39′ 30″ longitude West of Greenwich, and 21° 17′ 00″ North latitude, and although the town is built on a sand-bank, it is a great improvement over the old place Sisal, ; being much more convenient in every respect.

An excellent stone light-house, thirty five and a half feet in height, and of the second catadioptric order, was constructed a few years ago, and gives, both at sea, and on getting on shore, a decidedly important appearance to the place. The site of the light-house is well chosen, in the centre of a large square, and shows a light visible for seventeen miles.

There are four piers running out into the ocean, the present port, being like Sisal, an open roadstead, by reason of which, occasionally but not often, on a heavy Norther approaching, of which, due notice is always telegraphed from the most Northerly Mexican port, Tampico, it is considered advisable for vessels to leave their moorings, and put to sea. One of the piers, that belonging to the Fiscal Government, a good subtantial structure, is nearly four hundred and fifty feet long, and has at its sea end, a depth of over twelve feet of water, enabling coastwise and smaller foreign steamers to lie alongside. An excellent project for a magnificent harbour is being considered, engineers having recently made studies with that end in view. There is a hope that work will be commenced within the decade, making Progreso, one of the finest harbours in the Gulf of Mexico. Many people are very sceptical on the subject, but considering the large amount that the Federal Treasury derives from Yucatan, it is not too much to suppose, that it will show its appreciation in this manner.

For many years, all merchandise to and from the vessels lying at anchor, was moved by lighters, the owners of which, often obtained exorbitant prices for transportation, for shippers were completely at their mercy, having no alternative but to accede to their demands; but one day, a certain captain of an incoming

ship, economically inclined, protested at what he considered an excessive charge, determined to make an experiment of discharging and loading at one of the piers, and the result was so eminently successful, that others have followed suit, and now the large lightering business is rapidly dwindling down, and will no doubt, soon become altogether extinct.

The business done at Progreso has for several years, been enormous, although at the present time, Merida and Progreso, are both feeling very accutely, the effects of the most serious crisis the country has ever known, this passed over, and with the anticipated improvements, it should, and it is hoped, will re-assume large proportions. To give some idea of the amount of commerce at the port, confining ourselves to the exportation of Henequen alone, the returns given on page 16, show how that industry has come to the front, since the earliest returns attainable have been published, its growth has been phenomenal, literally by leaps and bounds.

A few years ago, a correspondent wrote from Progreso as follows:—"Such is the activity of trade, at the moment, that the piers are always crowded and blocked with packages of all sizes and descriptions, both being received and despatched. The Custom House Officers are kept busy from early morning until late at night, and although there are three inspectors, they are unable to keep up with the press of work. This extra vigilence is attributable to a very respectable export duty that has been levied upon henequen. The merchants and shippers open their offices at day-break, and work until night, still they are rushed to get their business despatched. The Stations and Warehouses of the two railways, are full of various classes of merchandise, and bales of henequen which predominate, are piled up and stored away everywhere, awaiting shipment. In fact, Progreso, the third port in the Repub-

lic, is a busy bee-hive, where all are making money, and are in consequence, naturally happy".

The signs of unprecedented prosperity were everywhere in evidence, both in public and private enterprizes, although from present appearances, the assertion is difficult to believe, Baron Moncheur, the Belgian Minister to this Republic, who visited the Peninsula a few years ago, wrote that the inhabitants of Yucatan were called the "Americans of Mexico" and that they justly merited the term, as they are an intelligent, active and very enterprising race. We certainly have no hesitation in echoing this richly deserved panegyric, as their unique characteristics strike any foreigner very forcibly.

Another very noticeable peculiarity to be seen here, is the prevalence of the Decauville narrow gauge light railway system, which forms a vast net-work throughout the city. In one year alone, one hundred and forty five kilometres of this track, were imported into Progreso. In fact portable railways are to be seen continually throughout the many plantations of the State, a feature not to be found to such an extent, in any other part of the country. In this connection the most important detail is very peculiar, although it may escape the notice of the casual visitor, if he is hurried or worried, it is that every pound of these rails, and attending light freight platform cars, are plainly of French or Belgian origin, which incongruity, considering the close proximity of the United States, is difficult to understand. It is certainly true that the Progreso Street Cars are of American manufacture, and the corresponding rails, but still, why all of the Decauville type, should be monopolised, seems peculiar to say the least of it, and is certainly too important an item, not to be thoroughly investigated.

The population of Progreso is now over twelve thousand, some of which, are well to do people, besides which number of actual residents, many visitors from

YUCATAN.

1. A typical field of henequen.
2. A field of henequen.

other parts of the State, come to the coast, during the excessively hot months, to enjoy sea bathing, the beach being delightfully suitable for the pleasant pastime, besides which, a refreshing breeze from the sea, invariably springs up at dusk every evening, and generally lasts all night.

Progreso is distinctly healthy, although as a rule, very hot during the day, but the evenings and nights are very enjoyable. A perpetual thirst seems to affect the community, from which ailment foreigners are by no means exempt, and the consumption of beer is in consequence, an important item. The many coasting steamers that call here, always bring thousands of boxes of Toluca, Monterrey, and Orizaba beer, although there is a brewery in Merida, that does a large business as it turns out a very excellent article. Schlitz is steadily forging ahead, and retails here at fifty cents (silver) a bottle, but considering the small advance in price, over the native productions, it certainly seems strange that its excellence is not more generally appreciated, and in consequence more extensively consumed.

Of a truth the place is well named, as in no other part of the Republic, has a more notable advance been made, that is of course from a comparative point of view.

Two lines of railway, one standard gauge, thirty six kilometres in length, and the other, narrow gauge, of forty six kilometres, run to Merida, at which place, connection is made with the City of Campeche. The rolling stock on both these roads is invariably imported from the United States, and the broad gauge line, is kept decidedly up to date.

The railway fares from Progreso to Merida, or vice versa, strange to say, differ, as by the broad gauge, it is One dollar and ten cents (silver), while by the narrow gauge, it is One dollar and forty four cents, the

apparent incongruity being attributable to the fares being fixed by mileage.

The Peniche Express, is a reliable institution, some member of the firm, being always present at the railway stations.

The standard gauge track from Progreso to Merida, is well ballasted, and laid with seventy two pound rails, the line is as straight as possible, having been located with the strict intention of reducing the distance between the objective points, as much as possible, besides economising time, which it must be admitted, is apparently of more importance, and more appreciated by the business men of Yucatan, than by the average Mexican. In this connection, we may add that for reasons given, and explanation offered in another page, Yucatecans do not call themselves Mexicans, although they unquestionably are nothing else, but the difference is so strikingly characteristic, as to lead one to suppose that the people here, belonged to another country and a different race. Up to date Baldwin engines make the trip in three quarters of an hour, the distance, as has been already stated, being only thirty six kilometres, or say twenty three miles.

The narrow gauge road, starting from another station in Progreso, which is easily found, being conveniently situated, is inferior to the other, not being so well looked after, and should for that reason only, not be chosen, although the 11 o'clock morning train from Merida, and the 1.30 p. m. train from Progreso, are sometimes heavily patronised, the fare each way is $ 1.44, the distance being ten kilometres in excess of the other. This road is entirely devoid of scenic or other interest.

Many people on their way from New York or Havana to Veracruz, or vice versa, take advantage of the time occupied by the steamer, in discharging and loading at Progreso, of running up to Merida, and are well rewarded for so doing, Sight seers can put themselves under the care of the Ward Line representatives,

MERIDA. The Gran Hotel.

a fixed sum charged by them covering all attending expenses. Light vehicles, or so called cabs, of a very particular type, and of which there are over six hundred in the city, and charging one dollar an hour, or fifty cents from one place to another, are awaiting the trains, they are admirably adapted to the requirements of the country, and can cover a good deal of ground in a very short time, enabling visitors to see á great amount during the four hours, that permission is given by the ship, to be passed in Merida, besides ample time for á good lunch, at the Restaurant of the Gran Hotel, an excellent, well conducted, handsome hostelry, that would do credit to any city.

On both sides of the broad gange line, several vast henequen estates, are to be seen, which can offer an idea, although small, of the importance of the industry, throughout the State.

Every convenience is offered to those who have come to the City, either with the object of passing through, on their way to the Ruins, or merely killing time until 3 p. m. when the train returns to Progreso.

Quantity, and value of Henequén, exported from Progreso, since the year 1880.

YEAR.	NUMBER OF BALES.	WEIGHT IN KILOS.	APPROXIMATE VALUE.
1880	112.911	18.178.694	$ 1.777.577.62
1881	154.730	23.911.587	2.726.565.88
1882	150.585	24.244.174	2.736.556.07
1883	202.805	32.651.597	3.537.507.18
1884	261.137	42.043.070	3.471.646.57
1885	267.478	43.063.891	3.334.811.81
1886	242.791	39.089.463	3.929.727.16
1887	224.865	36.283.351	5.894.429.84
1888	218.129	35.118.767	6.641.527.60
1889	252.432	40.641.521	1.024.360.93
1890	279.906	45.079.423	5.230.306.38
1891	323.585	52.065.024	6.571.683.49
1892	353.881	58.584.813	8.399.947.20
1893	360.857	58.097.929	8.467.134.00
1894	374.883	61.605.695	6 884.173.86
1895	383.413	61.729.584	6.112.198.59
1896	397.163	65.762.907	7.264.238.56
1897	419.975	70.545.153	8.218.697.74
1898	418.972	68.834.268	18.918.074.27
1899	445.978	73.190.896	20.211.141.37
1900	499.634	81.093.418	22.616.032.71
1901	517.519	83.191.007	22.883.453.73
1902	554.529	88.576.095	33.185.275.00
1903	589.066	93.444.442	32.045.296.00
1904	599.186	96.827.113	29.061.722.00
1905	599.835	96.097.882	28.880.157.00
1906	599.568	97.198.252	26,896.216.00
1907	611.845	100.773.946	24.874.317.57
1908	652.498	108.794.721	20.777.016.66
1909	567.427	95.755.937	20.214.627.95
Total.	11.637,583	1.894.274.620	$ 393.786.420.74

MERIDA. View of the principal plaza.

CHAPTER II

MERIDA.

The invariable concensus of opinion expressed by visitors, is that Merida is a very beautiful city, and unbounded surprise is evinced by all who see it, many remembering that only a few years past the place was of a very nondescript character, and the streets which had been left in their primitive state, were veritable sloughs of despond. Without doubt the one person who could effect such a transformation, almost approaching a miracle, deserves that a few words should be said about him.

In the year 1902 Señor Don Olegario Molina, a most resourceful man, who had been a school master, a lawyer, an engineer, in charge of the Yucatan Literary Institute, Secretary of the Governor, Government Counsellor, Fiscal Magistrate of the Superior Court, Twice a Deputy to Congress, and subsequently head of a business house, which has been recognised both in Europe and the United States, as the foremost in Yucatan, he was then elected Governor of the State of Yucatan. Little

wonder that from the commencement, he showed his marvellous executive and administrative ability, and his earnestness in serving faithfully his native State, great results were immediately apparent, inasmuch as the revenues for the first time, exceeded expenses, coincident with the numerous reforms and economies introduced under his regime. Mr. Molina who is possessed of a great fortune voluntarily relinquished his stipend as State Governor, applying the sum to public works, and further demonstrated his disinterested patriotism by donating from his private purse, one hundred thousand dollars, which he devoted mainly to the propagation of primary instruction.

He commenced upon the streets which he transformed from the wretched thoroughfares they were, to their present splendid condition, besides attending to the erection of various public buildings at the West End of the City, the beautiful new Peon Contreras Theatre also meeting with his encouragement, each and all of which edifices would adorn any metropolis. But his insatiable desire of supplying public necessities seemed whetted for still greater feats, to demonstrate his indomitable perseverance, he even minimising what he had done in his first term, compared to what his intentions were to execute during his second term of office, (as he was re-elected to his high position in 1906,) as the carying out of which programme, to the great regret and loss of Merida and the State generally, was frustrated, on his having to leave for Europe for domestic reasons, and subsequently on his return, being summoned by the President of the Republic, to take possession of a portfolio in the Cabinet. The action seemed to a certain extent paradoxical, inasmuch as Señor Molina having relinquished all private business in which he had been identified, to dedicate himself exclusively to his gubernatorial duties, and to which he showed himself so eminently fitted, to be taken away in the zenith of his acknowledged usefulness, would hardly justify the

statement of the President, when he remarked that he only wished that he had an Olegario Molina occupying the position of Governor in each and every State in the Republic.

The streets of Merida are, as a rule, laid out at right angles, numbers acting for their nomenclature, for instance Even numbers run from North to South, and Odd or Uneven numbers from East to West, consequently a stranger can easily find his way about, without any assistance, this arrangement is an innovation, as the streets were formerly distinguished by figures of birds and beasts, to assist the bulk of the population, or those who could not read. On the corner of the street was painted the figure representing the name of the street, or a descriptive image was perched on a convenient wall, thereby perpetuating the figurative painting of their progenitors. Few of these objects still remain, but some of the streets, and arches or gateways, of which latter there a few, still tacitly retain their original designation.

The main plaza having a self-contained beautiful park, lies in the centre of the city, and is bounded by 60th and 62nd Streets, and 61st and 63rd Streets, establishing a base, which is essentially convenient in every respect. The Cathedral and Archbishop's Palace occupies the Eastern side of it, the Municipal Palace is on the West, the State Executive Palace is situated on the North, and amongst other buildings on the South is the Montejo Palace, to which attention is called elsewhere, Merida is justly proud of her thoroughfares, for rarely, possibly never comparatively speaking, can such a succession of beautiful streets be found in any city of the world; this seems a bold assertion, but facts are stubborn, the following figures speak for themselves:

140,489 square metres of asphalt.
139,400 ,, ,, ,, single concrete,
69,749 ,, ,, ,, double concrete, and
59,564 ,, ,, ,, vitrified brick, were

laid before the 5th of February 1906, on which date, the President of the Republic, General Porfirio Díaz, made his memorable visit to the City.

For the size of the place, and the population, which is about sixty thousand, a matter of 409,202 square metres of Paving, to be laid in three or four years, is a showing, that few, if any city can equal. Over five millions of mexican dollars were spent, in accomplishing the good work, and still it is going on

As far as the general health of the community is concerned, from what one can judge from statistics, and from the unusual number of stout people, both in youth and advanced age, that are to be seen in the streets, apparently brimming over with robust health, it must be remarkably good. The sanitary commission seem to be very energetic, and employ a large staff of men, who are continually to be seen in the performance of their principal duty, which is the extinction of the scourge of yellow fever, so often encountered in tropical countries, and notwithstanding it has never prevailed here with the same virulence as in other parts of the Republic, or in the Island of Cuba, still stray cases are sometimes discovered, but this is very rare and every effort is being used to completely eradicate the disease from Yucatan. A very practical proof, within our own experience, was a few years ago, when a foreign doctor came to the city as a yellow fever specialist, he remained here a month, advertised considerably, as is the usual and necessary custom, but not getting a single patient during the time, packed up and left for some more profitable field.

The heat, for some months in the year, is intense, and during the day-time even enervating, but in the evenings, generally a cool breeze is felt, and the uncomfortable feeling experienced in the middle of the day is forgotten.

The Parks and Plazas in different parts of Merida, and of which there are several, call for a few words.

MERIDA. Municipal palace or city hall.

The Plaza de la Independencia, or Principal Plaza, and the Hidalgo Plaza, the latter in front of the Gran Hotel, are considered very pretty, but those of Santa Ana, San Juan, and even Santiago, should not be forgotten. Several more are in contemplation, as the craze of beautifying the city has developed to a very notable degree. The floor of the principal plaza has been raised considerably, and at great cost, thereby giving increased soil to nourish the many large and luxuriant shady trees, besides of inestimable benefit to the beautiful collections of shrubs and flowers. The show of roses in the very depth of winter, is a thing to be remembered, when the telegraph reported blizzards and distress, through intense cold elsewhere, the feast of beauty liberally bestowed in the plazas, seemed to offer a solace and recompense, tending to lighten ones other troubles.

The suburban resorts of Itzimna, Chuminópolis and San Cosme, are extremely attractive, and some very pretty private residences are to be seen, particularly at the two first named places. A triumphal arch was erected to, named "Carmen" after, and inaugurated by the President's wife, at San Cosme, since when the colony has grown very considerably, and some very neat villas are in evidence, but we must not forget the beautiful boulevard, named Paseo de Montejo, after the Adelantado, which even in its unfinished state, is fine; the intention is to continue it round the city, and when that is consummated, a driveway, difficult to duplicate, will come as a boon and a blessing to the numerous owners of automobiles in the city, some of the handsomest machines extant being seen, and too often unnecessarily heard in Merida.

There are several Daily Newspapers here, the principal of which are, the "Revista de Merida," and the "Diario Yucateco," both fairly liberal, and would be independent. They certainly deserve patronage, for their efforts, as journalism here cannot be a sinecure, if it was not for their abundant telegraph news from all

parts of the outside world, there unquestionably would be a dearth in the land, as very little of local interest ever transpires, they have nevertheless good circulation, although the price of one paper is ten, and the other five cents. In addition to the above named journals, there are The Official Organ, published daily, The Agricultor, issued monthly, also Religious papers, and others distinctly the contrary, clearly showing, that the community is keenly desirous of knowing what is going on, both here and elsewhere, from different points of view. Business men here are in general good advertisers, their advertisements, which together, fully occupy half the respective papers, must be found to give very profitable results, besides affording the principal source of revenue to the paper.

Strange to say, the upper class Yucateco seems to know quite as much of, and be often more interested in foreign affairs, than to what is transpiring in other parts of the Republic.

A great number of Yucatecans have been, and are being educated abroad, many attend school and college in the States, while a considerable number have been sent to England, France, Switzerland, and Germany. For the size of the place, and its practically retired position, it is remarkable how many people are found who speak English, in many instances almost as well as their own language, consequently it is always politic for Anglo-Saxons to be very circumspect in expressing their opinions in public.

The Lottery, which operates all over the State of Yucatan, is legalized, and is quite an institution, it unfortunately possesses few prizes, and many blanks, but nevertheless is very popular.

Sixteen of the largest Life, Fire and Marine Insurance Companies, are operating here, hitherto policies for Fire, have been very high, which now that a magnificent service of Water has been inaugurated, and

1. MERIDA. The Peninsula Bank.

2. RIDA. Branch of the National Bank.

Hydrants placed at Street Corners, will no doubt be materially and still profitably, reduced.

The Government has established its own Telephone Service, being thrown into direct communication with every outlying place of importance. Besides this there are two native Public Telephone Companies, which give fair satisfaction.

Two lines of Telegraph operate here. One owned by the Federal Government, which is in connection with all parts of the civilized world, and the other belonging to and operating in the State.

The Consuls representing Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Peru, Spain, Sweden and Norway, have their respective Consulates here, while those of England and the United States, hoist their country's flag at Progreso.

Light is thrown upon the City, by a very excellent installation of Electricity, by Messrs Siemens and Halske of Berlin, and also an American Company is giving great satisfaction with Gas.

Communication throughout the City, is at present effected by Street Cars operated by Mules, but as sufficiently heavy rails have recently been laid in many streets, it is expected that the entire system, embracing some sixty kilometres, will soon be electrified. All the rolling stock, which numbers about seventy cars of various descriptions, has been imported from the States, and offers an object lesson, as far as cleanliness in concerned, to many other better known cities. The universal fare is ten cents.

The very important subject of Education, applying in general to Yucatan, but particularly to the City of Merida, deserves a few words to be said about it. During the three last decades, very astonishing and gratifying changes have been effected in the educational condition of the whole State, and even to-day, improvements are still being added. Forty years ago, illiteracy was very general, but now it would be difficult to find a

yucateco who cannot read and write; the daily newspaper although comparative dear, is continually to be seen in the hands of the working man. Education is a matter that receives primary attention, both sexes being well looked after. A sum of considerably over half a million of dollars, is annually appropriated for the purpose, the last year's estimate being $ 563,006, each pupil costing the State, nearly eight dollars per month, there being a daily attendance at the various government schools of 5,589; to this number must be added, scholars attending private establishments, making in the aggregate, the very satisfactory number of 8,838 pupils of both sexes, attending the various institutions.

The City has also for the greater accommodation of its pupils, thirty four schools, that is seventeen for each sex, conveniently distributed, also Literary Institutions for both sexes, Normal Schools for Professors, besides a School of Jurisprudence, and another of Medecine.

To the above must be added, a Correctional School, which pays especial attention to teaching Arts and Trades.

A Public Library, with over five thousand volumes, is well patronised, Many English works are to be found upon its shelves.

Several private Libraries, are also in existence each possessing special merit.

The following named Institutions are also to be found in the City:

The Maternity Hospital,
Orphan Asylum,
Asylum for the Poor,
Monte de Piedad, where pecuniary assistance, upon collateral, is made, at a nominal rate of interest.

A Meteorological, Astronomical, and Pluviometrical Observatory, in direct communication throughout the State.

MERIDA.

Under all circumstances, a visit should be made to the Museum, which is situated on 50th Street, where, considering innumerable difficulties with which it has had to contend, a very interesting collection of various unique objects is to be found. Everything is arranged and classified in a very excellent manner, enabling all to be seen, without loss of time, and the Director of the Institution being a very polite, educated and well informed official, is only too kindly disposed to answer all questions that may be asked, besides generally enlightening the curious. Although there are certain established hours fixed for visitors, they are nevertheless always received and attended to at whatever time they may choose to go, this certainly is a very unusual courtesy, and is generally highly appreciated. It is greatly to be regretted that vast numbers of valuable specimens, that by right should belong to this Museum, have been purloined from the country, by archaeologists and tourists, besides which, some priceless gems, discovered in Yucatan, have been taken to the National Museum in the Metropolis.

A very good class of Shops and Stores are to be found in the City, where nearly any possible commodity is procurable, at a not very great increase in price over other markets, when the high import duties, and heavy freights are taken into consideration.

Merida is well supplied with places of Worship, the bells of the various churches being very frequently made to assert the fact, the first intimation that such exist, is made known by the Cathedral and some other temples, at 4 a. m., and repeated during the day, at frequent intervals, in many countries this would not be tolerated, but here people are so accustomed to noise, as to turn philosophically a deaf ear to this, and all similar sounds. Far be it from our intention to criticise bell ringing, for Bell Ringing is an art, and the harmonious sound of bells produces a peaceful effect, but the discordant clanging, tin kettle noise, made by the bells of

the Cathedral here, have a tendency to engender quite the reverse of seraphic thoughts.

There are said to be Eighteen Roman Catholic Temples, One Syrian, and One Protestant (Presbyterian) in the City, the principal, of course being the Cathedral, which edifice, from an interior point of view, is very beautiful, it was finished in the year 1598, in the reign of Philip III of Spain, and at a cost of over.... $ 300,000, it certainly reflects great credit upon its architect, Pedro de Aulestia. Its vaulted carved roof is supported by sixteen lofty and massive columns, which divide the nave from the aisles, and above the roof, rises a fine dome, also carved and gilded. The existing high altar, completed in 1762, is of wood, richly carved and heavily gilded, and was surmounted originally, by the Spanish Arms. A tabernacle erected a few years ago, although fine in itself, obscures the earlier work, and does not at all harmonise with it. From the chancel, a passage way leads to the curious circular choir in the body of the building, in which there are some good wood carvings. Four handsome chapels and the sacristy are worthy of notice.

The façade of the Cathedral is noticeably plain and commonplace, in comparison with the beautiful interior, it is ornamented with two fine statues of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, but palpably diminutive when compared with the size of the edifice. The Royal Spanish Arms, finely sculptured, were also on this façade but were covered with plaster in 1822, when the Arms of the Mexican Republic, an eagle with a snake securely held not only in its beak, but also in one of its claws, and perched on a prickly pear (nopal) bush, substituted. The centre is surmounted by a balustrade, guarding a footway (not visible from the front) between the two towers, which latter are estimated to be in the vicinity of two hundred feet high. In the Southern tower, is all that remains of a clock, that is said to have been made in London in 1731, it certainly still goes,

but has almost done its duty. The Bells of the Cathedral, were once, no doubt good, but nearly all are cracked now, having been wantonly fired at and rendered defective, by the Federal troops in the years 1843 and 1844.

The view to be obtained from the highest accessible part of the Northern Tower is very fine, and well worth the ascent, even on a hot day, for generally up there, a cool zephyr is felt, when in all other parts of Merida, the thermometer is recklessly marking three figures; and while here, do'nt forget the sacristan, in more ways than one, if possible see him perform on the bells, he is an artist, ringing half a dozen simultaneously, he could easily discount change ringers at home, as he not only uses his hands, but his feet also, his performance must be seen to be appreciated, his powers being minimised by description.

The Bishopric of Yucatan was erected by a bull of Pope Leo X, on the 27th of January 1518, and the Dominican friar Julian Garcés, the then Bishop of Cuba, was appointed to the see, but he never took office on account of the disordered state of the country, and the first actual Bishop of Yucatan the friar Francisco de Torral, was not consecrated until the 15th of August 1562, more than forty four years afterwards. The see has recently been elevated to an Archbishopric, the first Archbishop being the Reverend Doctor, Don Martin de Tristchler and Cordova.

With the exception of the Jesuit Church, at the corner of 59th and 60th Streets, which should be seen, none of the others call for any particular attention, although we offer the following remarks :

San Juan de Dios, is very ancient, having with its hospital and monastery been completed in 1625, the hospital and monastery are things of the past, and the church fell woefully into decay, but has recently been restored. Even in Merida, many persons believe that this church, at the corner of 58th and 61st Streets, was

the primitive Cathedral, the mistake arising from the fact, that the interval between the destruction of the first and the completion of the existing Cathedral, this church was used as the cathedral of the diocese.

San Juan Bautista, is a Miracle working Church, or rather was in early years. Very soon after the foundation of the City in 1542, a plague of locusts came upon the land, and as a means of staying the plague, there being some uncertainty as to which saint had jurisdiction in the premises, lots were cast to find from what quarter aid should be asked, and the choice fell upon Saint John the Baptist, thereupon a mass was said to that saint, when, it is said, the locusts immediately disappeared. Then the church was erected, and for a long time the fields were safe, but the church was neglected as time went on, until the year 1618, when on the eve of Saint John's day the locusts once more appeared, and in such quantities, as never before known. A vow was then made by the Governor and the Bishop, to attend each year, at a mass to be said in that church, on the festival of Saint John, and since that time, the locusts have been held in check. We have been unable to ascertain if this ceremony is still faithfully adhered to, The church was re-built in the year 1771.

Another church, worth seeing perhaps, is that of Las Monjas, (the nuns), corner of 63rd and 64th Streets, the present incumbent of which, was once, it is said, a soldier, but thought better of it, we are told that he does very well in his new vocation, and is a great favourite.

The ex-seminario of Saint Peter, founded in 1711, has been profaned, by being used as a theatre, and has recently been occupied by the Government, particularly by the Legislative and Post Office Departments, on the eve of removal to the new Federal Government Building mentioned elsewhere.

Very noticeable, in this notably Roman Catholic City, where in 1906, the Reverend Kenelm Vaughan,

MERIDA. State of Yucatan Executive Palace.

brother of the late Cardinal of Westminster, London, England, in his tour throughout this Continent soliciting subscriptions, wherewith to erect a Spanish American chapel of Expiation in connection with the Westminster Cathedral, collected a larger sum, than in any other place in America, is to be found a Presbyterian Church, situated in 66th Street, between 63rd and 65th Street In spite of almost unsurmountable difficulties, the Reverend Mr. Herrera, has made his church extremely popular, and brought together a very respectable congregation, he certainly deserves the highest eulogiums, for the marked results of his indefatigable labours.

The State Government Palace is a modern edifice, built to a great extent with cut stone, and is up to date in every detail, the distribution of the rooms and offices is perfect, all being fine and spacious, but rarely anywhere, can such a noble salon be seen, occupying as it does, the entire length of the building, about one hundred and fifty feet, with proportionate width, its height is said to be fifty feet, the room is well lighted with ten fine large windows, besides deriving light from many internal doorways. Notwithstanding the edifice is now large and imposing, it is the intention to extend it on 60th Street.

It was a grand sight to see six hundred guests banqueted here to meet the President of the Republic, on the 7th of February, 1906, the banquet was prepared by the celebrated chef Silvani of Mexico, and the wines were of the finest vintages, excellent music was furnished by both the deservedly renowned Artillery Band of Mexico, and the State Band, revelry did not only reign that night, but for several days and nights, Merida was wild to show her admiration for her President, and it is said by conservative estimates, that directly and indirectly, a million dollars was spent during the week he was here. How was that possible, may be asked, and without going far into detail, it can be said, that every house in the city, was either washed, whitewashed or painted for

the occasion, balls and banquets, many massive triumphal arches were erected, besides many other expenses, that cannot very well be enumerated here, for various and obvious reasons. The general effect called for and obtained the surprise and satisfaction of the President. Merida being, as she always is, as clean as a new pin, only on this occasion a little more so.

The building, situated as it is, to the North of the Plaza, and consequently, at right angles to the Cathedral, is of very pretty design, its delicate stone columns and light looking arches being worthy of attention, the various offices are abundantly and appropriately supplied with handsome imported furniture. We do not only give an illustration of this building, but also of

The Municipal Palace, to the West of the Plaza, which also calls for particular notice, its façade is handsome and antique in appearance, with a double row ot good sized arches, that is representing its two floors. It bears a tablet, giving the year 1821.

On the South side of the Plaza, that is, nearly opposite the State Legislative Palace, is a building that deserves a few words to be said about it, it is the most ancient house in Merida, and was erected in the year 1549, by the Adelantado, Don Francisco Montejo, the Conqueror of Yucatan, Its façade presents a grotesque combination of the Moorish and Indian, representing two knights in armour, consisting of cuiras, visor and helmet trampling on prostrate indians. A stone tablet is to be seen below, which bears the inscription "Esta obra mandó hacerla el Adelantado Don Francisco de Montejo, Año de MDXLIX," or translated into English. "The Adelantado Don Francisco de Montejo caused this to be made in the year 1549." Cogolludo adds that the said building cost the sum of $ 14,000 which seems dear for those days, when labour and material were cheap.

A cab, or the Street Car marked "Penitenciaria" will take you to the beautiful new boulevard that has

MERIDA.

1. Montejo's house, the oldest building in the city.
2. The Juarez Penitentiary.

recently been made in the West end of the City, and which boulevard it is the intention to be continued, so as to join on the Paseo Montejo, before alluded to, which when finished, will offer a driveway, difficult to imitate. On this roadway, has recently been erected the Juarez Penitentiary, at a cost of over $ 360,000, it unfortunately never lacks inmates, and is at present, liberally patronised.

The Ayala Asylum, to the South of the Penitenciary, is in reality, a Lunatic Asylum, for both sexes, excellently arranged by a Yucatecan celebrity, a Dr. Urcelay, recently defunct. The building cost in the neighbourhood of $ 871,000 and was endowed by the Yucatecan Philanthropist, Leandro Leon Ayala, the building seems to be unnecessarily large, giving strangers a very erroneous idea that a large part of the community was deranged, as it is there are very few inmates at the present time.

The hospital O'Horan, (anything but a Mexican name) is a very fine up to date institution, an edifice that would adorn any city, it is designed for both sexes, severely separate and is very complete in all its details. The writer was inmate for a short time and received excellent attention from a British trained nurse, the hospital boasts of several foreign trained nurses and positively is unique in this respect in this part of the country. So far this institution has cost over $ 1.000,000, The arrangements for the unlimited water supply deserve special attention.

There are various other structures worthy of mention, such as the new three story Federal Building, situated on 65th Street, which has cost nearly $ 213.000, under the roof of which, several departments of the Federal Government are now conducting their duties, take for instance, the new Telegraph Office, the new Post Office, the Federal Treasury, and the Court of the Judge of the District.

The new Santiago School is a fine building, and cost nearly $ 105,000.

A beautiful block of buildings, intended for the schools of the Majorada District, has recently been erected at a cost of $ 121.000. They would constitute an ornament to any city, and of which the Municipality should justly feel proud.

Adjacent to the new Federal Building, to which we have called attention, a new Market has recently been erected, costing the sum of nearly $ 63.000, it is typical of the excellent manner in which works of the sort are finished here.

The Civil Registry Office recently erected is estimated to have cost over $ 139.000.

The new San Sebastian Schools, are perfect buildings of a modern type, and are stated to have cost in the neighbourhood of $ 126,000.

A long list of business houses, all calling attention, could be given, but sufficient to say, The Gran Hotel, which deserves its name, pleasantly facing the Hidalgo Park, but unfortunately erected in the immediate vicinity of several churches, the bells of which, rung with more attention, apparently of making a noise than with any other object, is apt to interfere with the comfort of transient guests. The Bazar Hotel, is a well built modern edifice, on 65th Street, it contains all modern improvements, with the exception of an elevator, which great want, is prejudicial to the ultimate success of the establishment.

With reference to Hotels, it should be added, that there are six other hostelries, catering to the wants of travellers, but of less pretensions.

To the above should be added the Mercantile Establishments of Ritter & Bock Successors, and Crasemann & Co Successors, as being rather above the average, and together representing a large sum of money.

There are three Banks, The National Bank, at the corner of 56th and 59th Street, the Mercantile Bank,

MERIDA.

1. The new market.
2. The new federal post and telegraph offices.

on 65th Street, between 60th and 62nd Streets, and the Campeche Bank, on 58th Street, between 63rd and 65th Streets.

Places of Amusement, The City is fairly well supplied in this respect, although at ten p. m. one is forcibly impressed with the idea, that nearly everybody has retired for the night, it being an easy matter to count the people in the streets. We must first call attention to the unusually handsome theatre, situated on 60th Street, between 57th and 59th Streets, named the "Peon Contreras" after the deeply regretted and highly gifted Yucateco poet, Doctor José Peon and Contreras, who died in the City of Mexico, in the year 1907. The building is in the order of Italian Renaissance, and so far, has cost in the neighbourhood of $ 1.300.000, but now that it is built, it is feared that it will not be a financial success, from the fact of it being altogether too large for the place, error in judgement, is painfully noticeable at every turn. The house will be difficult to fill, fully one half of the interior distribution, being in eighty boxes seating eight hundred, and suitable for families that will not always feel disposed to attend, but for which seats, naturally higher prices will be demanded, the bulk of the population, the class from which the representative theatre goers belong, not being able to, or expected to pay the prices for boxes, will leave only twelve hundred cheap seats at their disposal, which are all that can be practically depended upon to support the undertaking, the seating capacity being only for two thousand. The building is two hundred and thirteen feet long, one hundred and fifty seven feet broad, and nearly eighty two feet high, with a stage area of over six thousand square feet.

Then there is the Circo Teatro, a well built structure, at the corner of 57th and 68th Streets, which as its name suggests, serves for various classes of entertainments. Here frequently a bull fight takes place on Sunday afternoons, during the dry season, which is,

invariably well attended, frequently "standing room only" being announced, and sometimes not even that is to be had. On the evening of the same day, the scene of the brutal spectacle is changed, the whole of the ring being filled with chairs, some intellectual drama being represented, or even an opera, but although the admission fee may be one half of that charged in the afternoon, many seats remain empty, comment of course is unnecessary, by their actions shall they be known. The seating capacity of this place varies naturally, according to circumstances. Circus or Bull Fights, accommodating three thousand, while the Drama or Opera, is able to make provision for eight hundred more.

Besides the above, there are various Cinematograph and Variety exhibitions, generally well attended, and very good, although from an anglo-saxon point of view, the subjects, to say the least of it, might be better chosen.

The Recreation Grounds at Itzimna, are frequently well attended on a Sunday afternoon, especially if a Base ball game between popular teams, is billed.

The Post Office, is a well conducted department, operated upon a slow but sure system, correspondence arriving at Progreso, on one day, frequently not being distributed in Merida, until the following day, although, as has been said, the distance is only twenty eight miles, speciai mail trains, so far being considered superfluous The Post Office, has branches, naturally, in all parts of the State, and three branch offices in the Capital City of Merida, where considering that the last census showed that were only One thousand four hundred and eighty four foreigners, out of a population of 60,156 souls, which included Yucatecos, Mestizos, and Indians, 28.043 of which latter adults, could not read nor write, it is very satisfactory to know that the Department had a movement of correspondence last year of 1.144,108 pieces, besides 431.187 pieces of printed matter, add to this 14,199 parcels, also money orders

MERIDA. Interior of the Peon Contraras Theatre.

to the value of $ 409.269.21, together with postal custom duties, amounting to $ 28,919.02, recovered from foreign parcels, will in the aggregate, give some idea of the importance of the place.

The Residential and other Buildings display two distinct styles of architecture, the old and the modern, the old and predominating one peculiar to the country, prevails in a more or less stereotyped form in all parts of the tropics, it combines the picturesqueness of Moorish and Spanish, crossed with the original ideas of the native, the result frequently being charming. The better residences generally have several prison-like windows, all invariably having grating in front of them, formed of half inch iron bars, and a large carriage door on the street, through which latter entrance to the interior is effected, when frequently a marvellous metamorphosis takes place, and you find yourself in a beautiful garden, on one, two, or three sides of the same are large corridors, in which are doors leading into the various lofty and spacious apartments, generally with pretty cool tiled floors, but frequently with uniform squares of either local or imported marble instead. Some of the gardens are beautiful beyond description, and if the writer of these notes did not remember that they are intended for a sober guide book, he might be often prompted to give way, to a more hyperbolic manner of expressing himself on the subject, and still retain deserved reputation for veracity. Within these gardens of private residences, not only are beautiful shrubs and flowers to be seen, but also in many instances large trees; take for instance the premises on 57th Street, belonging to the recent Governor, and Minister of Fomento (Encouragement) in the Metropolis at the moment, Señor Don Olegario Molina, a man who has worked wonders for Merida, and more generally alluded to, on another page. Many more delightful homes could be mentioned, of a distinctly modern and foreign type, that are to be seen in various parts of the city, notably the

magnificent and immense mansion belonging to General Francisco Canton, which is almost finished, and erected on the Paseo Montejo, the building is imposing, it will be grand in the extreme, possessing every modern improvement, and having all the furniture imported from Paris, we might enumerate many others, but think enough has been said upon the subject.

Social entrance for the foreigner, is a very rare privelege to obtain, in fact even among the inhabitants, there is not that warm and enthusiastic spirit, and love of entertaining, so notably evinced in other parts of the Republic.

On Band nights, or as they are called, "retreta," the very excellent State Band, playing three nights a week, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, (and also on Sunday mornings) those that have carriages, and there are many, driving well caparisoned horses, and handsome vehicles well appointed, with liveried coachmen and footmen, some even sporting cockades, besides as we have said, numerous automobiles frequently tooting unnecessarily, drive round and round the plaza, meeting their acquaintances at every turn, and are perfectly satisfied in that way of seeing their friends well; and exchange nods, finger twidlings and smiles. Driving up and down 59th Street on Sunday mornings is quite the proper thing to do, it is found most exciting and exhilerating, all Merida and his wife, taking part in the processions, and many people standing on the sidewalks, remain standing for an hour or more, evidently deriving infinite pleasure in watching them. Here sociability seems to end, society being painfully exclusive in its ways, such things as large dinner parties are unusual and strangers bearing letters of introduction, are dined sumptuously at the club, or at a Restaurant, but rarely are they presented to the family. Perhaps obvious reasons exist, or have existed to enforce this custom, or render it advisable, but it neverthelesses surprises and hits foreign gentlepeople hard. Private balls are

MERIDA. General Canton's mansion.

extremely few, and even public balls we have attended, seem to lack the animation, observed elsewhere.

The Railways of Yucatan, offer a very peculiar, and perhaps unique feature, that is the entire absence of water-ways, no bridges nor even culverts being seen or required, and thereby rendering the construction of railways extremely moderate in price, in comparison with other localities, the characteristic level nature of State lends materially to the facility with which rails can be laid as practically no cut ot fill is, with extremely rare exceptions, to be seen.

The Yucatecans on their own initiative, have taken advantage of these favourable elements, and have built over a thousand kilometres of railway, with steam and animal traction, connecting almost all places of importance with one another, throughout the State, and also with the City of Campeche.

At the present moment there are two railway stations in Merida, both belonging to the United Railway Company of Yucatan, which corporation operates over eight hundred kilometres of track, with good and uptodate rolling stock, and it must be remembered that this, and the many roads operated by animal power are owned by local stockholders exclusively. It is intended that the two stations, namely Mejorada on 50th Street, between 57th and 59th Streets, and San Cristobal, also on 50th Street, will eventually be closed, and a grand Union Depot be erected to take their place, which will be infinitely better and more convenient in every respect. In this connection it may be said, that Merida, with the exception of the Metropolis only, is the most go-ahead city in the Republic.

The State of Yucatan, differs from the rest of the Republic, in that her citizens and government, have not been seized with the rage, so prevalent in other portions of the country, of granting all good concessions to speculative foreigners, any good things that they may have, they wisely keep to themselves. They feel, and

have proved themselves quite capable of developing their own country, and opening it up to the commerce of the world. As has been said, there are to-day nearly one thousand kilometres of steam railway in the State, besides two hundred and eighty three kilometres, operated by mule power, all owned by private individuals in the State. Surprise is naturally evinced, as to why such an important aggregation should remain isolated, when communication with the rest of the Republic, and the Continent in general, could be easily established, and thereby materially assist in opening up, vast territories of extremely valuable land, at present lying idle, for want of means of communication, and which, of course, would become tributary to the line filling the existing gap. Should this catch the eye, and excite the interest of any responsible person or syndicate wishing to be informed with further details upon this subject, a letter addressed to the publishers of this work, will be responded to, supplying at the same time, all particulars. When it is known that the Government, not only of the various States through which the line would pass, but also the Federal Government, are only too anxious for such a line to be built, perhaps the situation may become still more emphasized, there is an existing rumour that a Company has just been formed to construct the line, it is to be hoped that it will be an accomplished fact. At the present time everything, it may be said, is brought to this neighbourhood by water, Yucatan being a producer of Henequen alone exports only that article, and imports everything she uses.

We have been as brief as possible in our notes on Merida, but although it is not deemed necessary to allude to other towns, certain remarks upon the State of Yucatán in general seem at the last moment to be necessary in connection with the rest of this paper, so in spite of our desire, to write in as cursory a manner as possible, our description has assumed much larger proportions than was originally intended.

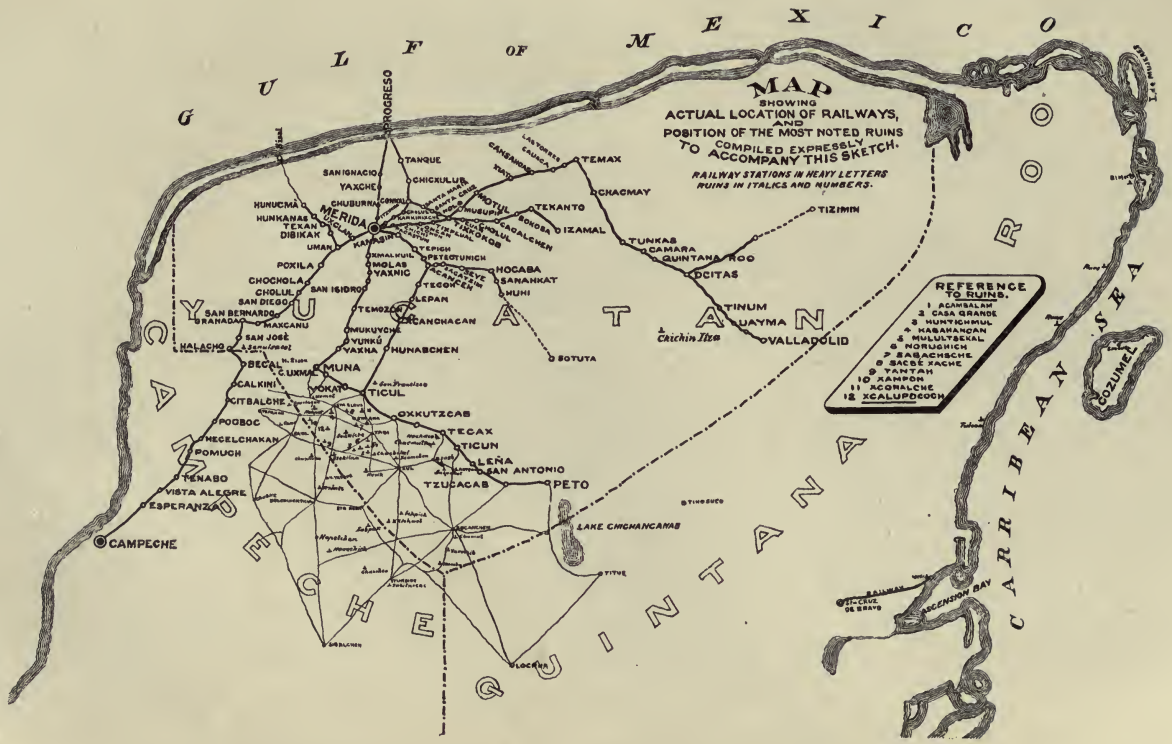
It only remains to be added, that after seeing as much of the City, as is practicable in the limited time allowed, the 3 p. m. train is taken at the Mejorada Station, to return to Progreso and the Steamer, or if you have decided to lie over, you begin to make arrangements to visit some of, or all the known ruins, (for unquestionably there are still some, that have never yet been discovered) which form the world famed collection of Yucatan, and are to a certain extent, described in the following pages.

CHAPTER III

RELEVANT HISTORY, and the RUINS.

THE following notes, slightly tinged with relevant history, applying to the Ruins, and the different railways to take, for the purpose of getting to them, will it is hoped, prove interesting and instructive, but at the same time we must add, that we regret that our information is not so extensive as we should have desired, it is lamentably defective, and even in some instances notably meagre, although no amount of study of ancient or other works can elicit further details.

Although Christopher Columbus, has hitherto had the credit for being the discoverer of Yucatan, an exhaustive research proves the fact that he had nothing whatever to do with it, and that the land was actually made by Vicente Yañez Pinzon, and Juan Diaz de Solis, who had accompanied Columbus on his last voyage in these latitudes, some time before.


MAP
SHOWING
ACTUAL LOCATION OF RAILWAYS,
AND
POSITION OF THE MOST NOTED RUINS
COMPILED EXPRESSLY
TO ACCOMPANY THIS SKETCH.
RAILWAY STATIONS IN HEAVY LETTERS
RUINS IN ITALICS AND NUMBERS.
REFERENCE
TO RUINS.
1 ACAMBALAM
2 CASA GRANDE
3 HUNTICHMUL
4 HABANANCAN
5 MULULTSEKAL
6 NORUCHICH
7 SABACHECHE
8 SACBÉ XACHE
9 TANTAH
10 XAMPON
11 XCORALCHE
12 XCALUPDCOCH
GULF OF MEXICO
CARIBBEAN SEA
YUCATAN
CAMPECHE
QUINTANA ROO
MERIDA
PROGRESO
CAMPECHE
CAMPECHE
TICUL
PETO
LAKE CHICHANCANAB
ASCENSION BAY
COZUMEL
TIZIMIN
TEMAX
CHACMAY
TEKANTO
IZAMAL
TUNKAS
CAMARA
QUINTANA ROO
OCITAS
TINUM
UAYMA
VALLADOLID
Chichin Itza
SOTUTA
HOCABA
SANAHKAT
HUHI
TANQUE
CHICXULUB
SAN IGNACIO
YAXCHE
CHUBURNA
HUNUCMÁ
HUNKANAS
TEXAN
DIBIKAK
UMAN
KANASIN
POXILA
CHOCHOLA
CHOLUL
SAN DIEGO
SAN BERNARDO
GRANADA
MAXCANU
SAN JOSÉ
HALACHO
BECAL
CALKINI
CITBALCHE
POOBOC
HECELCHAKAN
POMUCH
TENABO
VISTA ALEGRE
ESPERANZA
MOLAS
YAXNIC
TEPICH
PETEOTUNICH
TECOH
LEPAN
TEMOZON
CANCHACAN
MUKUYCHE
YUNKÚ
YAXHA
HUNABCHEN
MUNA
YOKAT
OXKUTZCAB
TECAX
TICUN
LEÑA
SAN ANTONIO
TZUCACAB
TITUE
LOCHNA
TIMOSUCO
RAILWAY
ST. CRUZ DE BRAVO

Notwithstanding the discovery was made in the year 1506, no active proceedings relative to the acquisition of the territory for the crown of Spain, took place until the 4th of March 1517, when a so called adventurer, Captain Francisco Hernández de Córdova, one of richest merchants of Cuba we are told, set sail from there, and steered hap-hazard, but in the direction of Yucatan, being in command of an expedition, consisting of "two great ships" and a shallop, having on board, in all one hundred and ten fighting men, which number included a priest, one Alonzo González, a native of Santo Domingo.

A landing was effected near the present Cape Catoche, but the invaders received such an unexpectedly warm reception from, the natives that they thought it prudent to soon retire, but not until Padre Gonzalez had transformed the local pagan temple into the first Roman Catholic Church in the new country which he dedicated to Nuestra Señora de los Remedios, our Lady of Succour, as all their questionable success over the so-called barbarians, was supposed to have been gained thorough her favour. The Spaniards admitted to having fifteen wounded, which apparently was sufficient reason for them to leave the country, they took with them two poor natives who they had captured, these were purged of their sins of idolatry, converted to Christianity and baptized, being given the names of Melchor and Julian. The Spanish historians add, that fifteen barbarians were killed, but nevertheless as the country could not be pacified by the force he had with him, Hernandez de Cordova returned to Cuba, was immediately taken sick, and died.

Without going further into details, nothing was effected until some ten years afterwards.

In 1527, one Francisco Montejo arrived from Spain, bearing the title of Governor, Captain General, and Adelantado, which last records tell us, was an original name for Governor, only a little more impressive,

he expected to carry all before him, but was disappointed at receiving continual opposition, he was so thoroughly defeated at Chichen Itzá, that he handed over his army to his son, a promising young man, bearing the same name as his disgusted father, who, in his turn, after sixteen years of terrible viscissitudes effected the conquest of Yucatan, on the 11th of July 1541, utterly defeating the Indian chief Nachi-Cocom, with 45,000 men, near the City of T'Hó.

Six months later, on the 6th of January 1542, young Montejo, founded the City of Merida, on the site of the ruins of the old T'Hó.

As has been stated the discovery of the ruins at Palenque, in the Mexican State of Chiapas, took place about 1756, but no interest seems to have been excited until the year 1786, when the King of Spain, having incidentally heard that such existed, ordered an exploration to be made, then upon natural excitement being evinced, it soon leaked out, that many other zones in the country, possessed ruins that were equally deserving of attention, so little by little, the priceless archaeological treasures to be found in many parts of Mexico, were brought to the knowledge of the outer world.

From time to time, since the above date, by lack of convenience in travelling, or perhaps ignorance, the number of visitors to the ruins, has been comparatively small, certainly a few travellers, students and would be archaeologists have visited the various groups, (for there are many) but nearly all those visitors have been powerless in causing any excitement upon the publication of their individual impressions, the seed has fallen upon sterile ground, and no visible action has hitherto been taken for offering to the world, the subject matter of this pamphlet, in such a way that all can run and read.

It is true that Lord Kingsborough published a beautiful work on the ruins, which is alluded to here, and quoted by other writers, but unfortunately the result

of his studies, being of such a ponderous and costly description, has rendered it difficult of access to many.

Others in their turn, have written, but for some reason their productions have been received apathetically, with the exception of the grand master-piece of Mr. John L. Stephens, the celebrated American traveller and archaeologist, who made an exhaustive personal inspection of nearly all the ruins in Central America, or that he could possibly hear of. He published a work, which for exactitude in all particulars, has been accepted as the text book on Yucatecan Archaeology, besides being quoted by all writers, who have written upon the subject and pertaining to the field, during the last sixty or seventy years, freely admitting him to be the greatest authority on the local ruins, and all pertaining to them.

So far the hieroglyphics have not been deciphered, but students are working, and it is to be hoped that they will soon be rewarded, encouraged by the remembrance that the Egyptian hieroglyphics were inscrutable for many centuries, and at last the Rosetta stone was found, Boturini who travelled through every part of the country, in the middle of last century, could not meet with an individual who could afford him the least clue to the Aztec hieroglyphics, and the same may be said with respect to the Maya glyphs also, so completely has every vestige of their antiquities been swept away from the memory of the natives. But if we are to believe Bustamante, a complete key to the whole system of hieroglyphics, is at the present moment somewhere in Spain, having been carried there in 1795, the name of the Mexican Champollion who discovered it is Borunda, we should add that this statement seems too good to be true, and decidedly lacks confirmation.

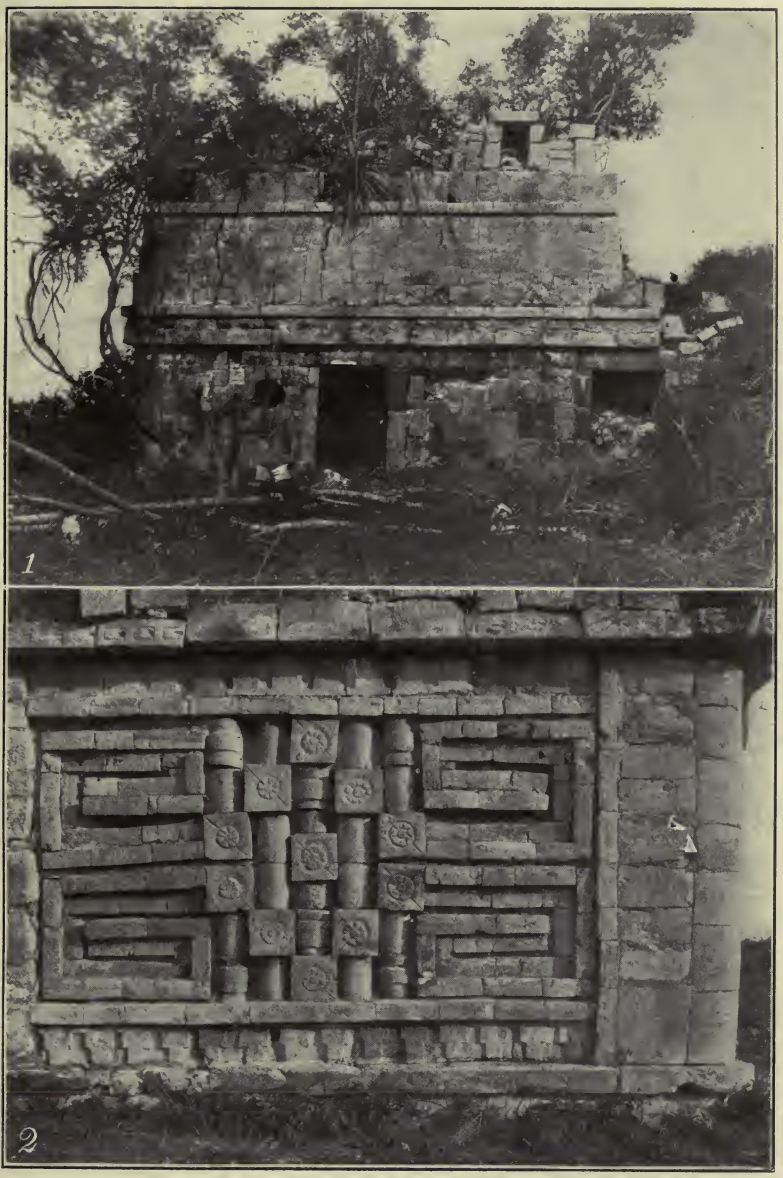
It is an undoubted fact, that travel has increased enormously amongst Anglo Saxons in recent years, and a tour of the world is now looked upon as a very necessary adjunct and object lesson to one's education, or

before the same can be considered complete. Many people boast that they have been round the world, and have seen everything worth seeing, and still very possibly ninety per cent of those that rashly make that statement have never seen, nor even heard of the priceless and unequalled archaeological treasures that are waiting for them in Yucatan, treasures which for beauty and antiquity are positively without a peer, which date back hundreds of years before the Christian era, and unquestionably before the pyramids of Egypt were built. When it is even believed by some, that Yucatan was the cradle of human civilization, and from this once densely populated land emanated the knowledge, sciences and arts, which rendered ancient Egypt so famous, while the religion of the land of Chemi, and the mysteries practised by the white robed priests of Thebes, were first preached to the world in the spacious temple of the Sun, at Uxmal, in Yucatan.

Sufficient facts have been elicited, and presented in these pages to prove that Yucatan was once the birth-place of a high order of civilization, although more is known of the dynasties that flourished at that remote age, than is told by the hieroglyphical inscriptions and carved engravings found on the columns, and temple walls of the many ruined cities throughout the State of Yucatan.

It certainly seems anomalous to us, that these treasures exist, and are to be seen without the slightest difficulty of access, and still travellers, globe trotters who run away with the idea that they have seen everything worth seeing, who are only too anxious to see something new, have no idea of the wonderful and unequalled antiquities that lie in endless profusion in Yucatan, and to partly describe which, is the purpose of the following pages.

With the exception of Chichen Itzá, Uxmal, and Mayapan, which can claim as much antiquity as perhaps any places in the world, although the particulars



CHICHEN ITZA.

1. Portion of ruined structure close to the Nunnery.
2. Detail of part of the Façade of the Nunnery.

of which that can be gleaned from only comparatively recent history are very meagre, the other places which we name and attempt to describe, have so to speak, only lately been brought into notoriety, and owe to a great part their existence, or perhaps more correctly speaking, their discovery to Mr. John L. Stephens, an American Archaeologist and traveller, who first visited the country in 1841, and again in 1843. To him must all credit be given, for his determined researches, and also for his interesting and lucid manner of describing them, for prior to his appearance on the scene, the fact of ruins existing, other than those named above was often doubted, and more frequently discredited.

Stephens narrates, that having observed from elevations elsewhere, that presumably ruins did actually exist in various vicinities, visited the nearest inhabited spots, and asked that some person be deputed to show him their ruins, when invariably he was told, in good faith, that he must be mistaken, as there were no ruins in the locality. He then investigated the matter, and as a rule, being successful, pointed out to the astonished inhabitants, that, so to speak at their very door-step, there were ruins, of which although they had lived there all their lives, they did not know existed.

This last statement is so much to the point, that an instance of very interesting ruins coming to light, was only last year realized, in the very town of Acanceh, to the great surprise of the people, who at this late date, are really beginning to understand and appreciate the value of the treasures they possess, as is mentioned elsewhere, their characteristic apathy, up till now, has been very palpable, and greatly to be regretted.

But at the same time it must be observed, that a very important element exists throughout Yucatan, that renders the discovery of unknown ruins extremely difficult, that is the almost impenetrable forests and luxuriant growth of trees of all sizes, and bushes, knitted together, by a species of thorny creeper, that frequently

no person or community would think of taking the trouble to destroy, without some good reason or given object in view. We may in this connection safely affirm, that no doubt can possibly exist, but that buried in the wilderness which abounds in the State of Yucatan, ruined cities await in silence, the visit of the traveller, cities that had their origin it is said, long before the birth of the Saviour, long before the Pyramids of Egypt were ever thought of, and where, as a general rule, no record or even tradition remains to tell, or even hint who built them, or give us a suspicion of the mysterious civilization to which their builders belonged.

It is now impossible to give the number of ruined sites of what were once hamlets, villages, or even towns; we certainly do know of seventeen groups, that were once probably large enough to be designated by the mysterious term of cities, but that others exist, and await in silence the coming of the explorer, we repeat, we have no doubt.

Possibly some still more curious, than what we already know of now, will eventually be brought to light, for example, those important ruins only recently unearthed at Acanceh, of which we have just hinted, a station on the Peto Railway, and only twenty five kilometres from the Capital City of Merida. Although so to speak, at the very door of the same, nobody knew anything about them, until a few months ago when they were accidentally found.

Within a radius of a hundred miles from Merida, are such magnificent ruins as Aké, Chichen Itzá, Labná, Mayapan, Uxmal, and many others, known and unknown, but of those we do know of, two especially must clearly have been of an area and importance that even in these times entitle them to be considered as cities of primary attention. Human nature is ever ready to exaggerate the mysterious, and magnify the unknown, but the ruined groups of Chichen Itzá and Uxmal, must, even to the most conservative traveller, scientist,

or ordinary sight seer, be ranked to day, as wonders of art and architecture, deserving classification with the world's greatest monuments of antiquity; these certainly claim this right, and little doubt exists, but that it will be unanimously conceded.

We now commence our Archaeological description of the ruins of Yucatan, and in alphabetical order, which will perhaps be found more convenient, those belonging to the State of Campeche, and Territory of Quintana Roo being under different headings.

A group of ruins that has been discovered since the days of Stephens, is that of

ACANCEH

pronunced "arkankay" which means in Maya "the cry of the deer," and which can be seen without any actual discomfort, as it lies only fifteen miles from or so to speak, at the very doors of Merida. If the train ran there in the morning, it would constitute, like Rosherville, a place to spend a pleasant day, as the ruins could be done, in a couple of hours or less, and the return made to the City in the cool of the evening, but of course that convenience would be asking for, and expecting too much, as it is there is an annoyance, it being necessary now to pass the night there, as the only trains going in that direction, leave Merida, at 3.30., and 4., in the afternoon, but although there is no hotel or fonda in the town, you can nevertheless find a place for one night, to hang your hammock, which it is always safer to take with you, and renders you to a certain extent independent, besides something can be had to eat in the bakery across the way from the Station, so there is reason to be thankful, as things might be worse.

Do'nt forget your permit, as permission from the Director or Curator of the Ruins, who, as has been of-

ten said in these pages, is to be found at Nº 553, 59th Street, Merida, must be first obtained, before visiting any of the ruins in the State of Yucatan.

The ruins, in question, consisting of façades or walls, on the sides of steps or landings, are in the immediate precincts of the town, and are considered very interesting, by the newspapers, possibly from having been accidentally discovered by the natives themselves, and not like other ruins, owing their initiative in any way to foreigners.

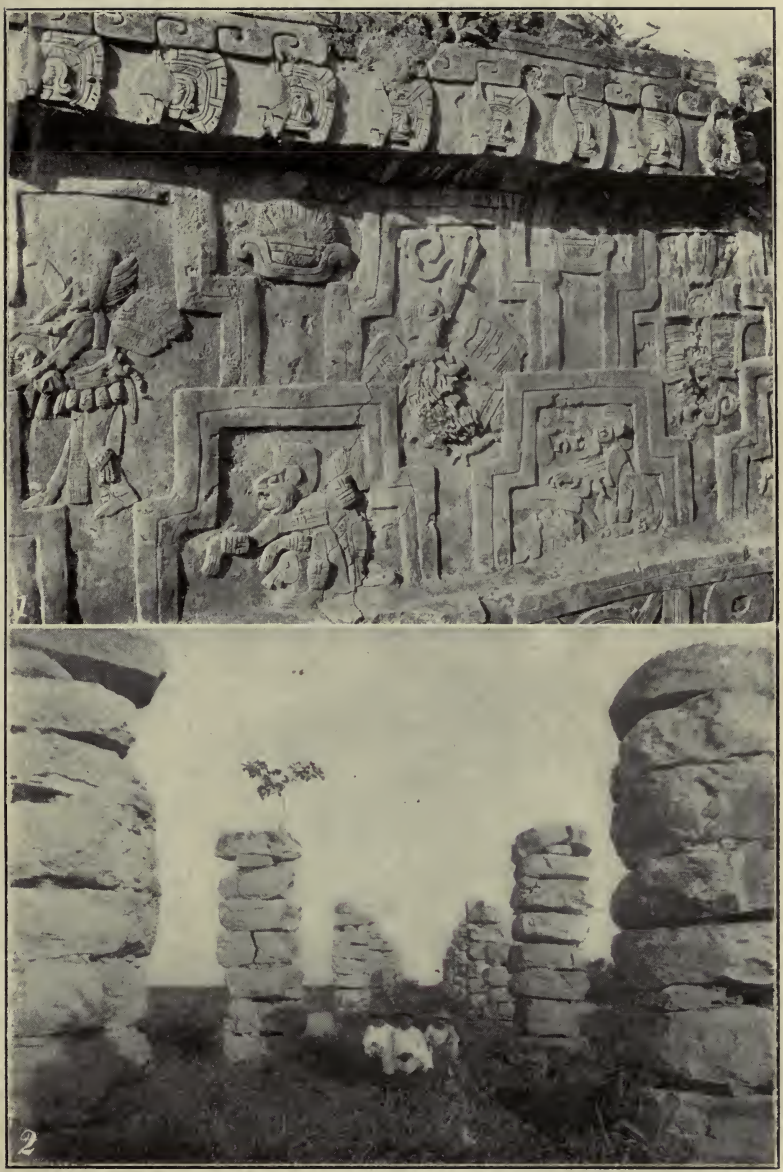
On stone being required for a new plaza that is being built, they sought for material in an adjacent hill, when to their surprise, they came upon the relics, that not a soul knew existed.

"La Revista de Merida," a newspaper published in the City, speaking upon these ruins, remarks that is to be regretted that the people show such indifference towards their newly found relics, and although of the greatest interest, and which in other countries would excite admiration and regard, even stimulating jealousy and labour, here on the contrary, not only the people, but the very conservators appointed by the government, show a lack of concern and appreciation, respecting them and take no steps, to either preserve what has been found, or search for more remains, that very probably exist in the neighbourhood.

Although nothing has been said on the subject, it is clearly evident that a vast series of ruins is to be found in this vicinity, and with a little trouble, objects of curiosity and merit would be presumably discovered.

On the left of the railway, going towards Acanceh, extensive ruins can be seen in two places, at present only in the shape of hills or pyramids, they were probably altars or shrines, as traces of such buildings can be seen on top of them.

Besides we noticed carved stones forming the sidewalks of Acanceh, which have from time to time been



1. ACANCEH. Specimen of mural tablets recently discovered.
2. AKE. One of the galleries or rows of columns.

taken from the ruins unknowingly, and so far remain unnoticed by the indifferent and supine community.

But in Acanceh itself, a large pyramid which by a rough estimate is about forty feet high and one hundred and twenty five feet square, forms part of the plaza, on the left; and from the top of which, a smaller one can be seen within a private enclosure, but still no spirit of vanity or hope of discovering precious relics, ever prompts these people to investigate anything in which there is not already an assured benefit, and there possible treasures would lie for an indefinite time, or until some foreigner will take the initiative, and expose them to the surprised eyes of the inhabitants, which objects would then be immediately swallowed up by the authorities, or at all events be restricted from leaving the country, openly.

Traces of a stone building remain on top of this pyramid, and it was presumed by an american archaeological authority that it had evidently been a place of sacrifice, which he informed the writer were similar to many others, which lie scattered between Guanabato and Costa Rica.

Following the hacienda tramway to the right, and after a ten minutes walk, one comes to another large mound covering more area, but not so high as the other. From the top of this, still another and lower one can be seen within private grounds to the right. The larger mound has been extensively excavated, exposing a series of small chambers, evidently residences of priests, some of them showing the characteristic Maya arch. One of them shows extensive work in stucco, dilineating mystic subjects, exemplifying conclusively that the Mayas thoroughly understood the use of lime, and its binding effects. Speculation on the signification of the mysterious designs to be seen is useless, as it would require the explanation of the priests who originated them to elucidate.

And when we say that another mound, that stands beside the dancing pavilion fronting on the plaza, has been so nearly removed to be converted into lime and building material, that its character has been lost, we say all that has any interest in connection with the ruins of Acanceh, that is at least up to the year 1909, for not the slightest doubt remains that the ruins are destined some day to afford precious developments.

AKIL.

A station on the Peto Railway, ninety nine kilometres from Merida, is a modern town, but almost built of the cut and sculptured stones, that were found on the very site, the matter would never have been known, if it had not been for the tell-tale stones in the door of Municipal Building, which led to an investigation.

No document of any sort is available, to tell us anything of the former city.

It is more than probable some curiosities could be obtained here.

AKÉ.

According to the present Railway Time Table, which is of course, susceptible to change, and therefore should be verified when required, a train leaves the Mejorada Station, in Merida, twice daily, arriving at the Station of Tixkokob, and at another stopping place, Euan, ten minutes later, at both of which places, transportation can be found to proceed to the ruins near by.

Tixkakob is a great centre of the Hammock industry, and large numbers of a cheap quality, too cheap for the average Yucateco, are annually exported to the United States, where a good sum is obtained for them. The importance of hammocks, in this part of the world

at least, can hardly be realized, all Yucatan sleeps in hammocks, it was born, it lives, and dies in hammocks. In many places a bed is unknown, but when both are available, the Yucatecan, and for the matter of that many foreigners, invariably prefer the hammock, consequently they are to be found in every house and every hut, many are frequently of a very superior class unknown abroad, and are sometimes beautifully made of pure silk, of lovely designs, commanding such high local prices that few people elsewhere would ever dream of paying.

On arriving at the ruins, after a short ride, the most imposing sight to be seen is a great mound, which is more easily ascended on the South side; here are found the remains of an immense range of steps, 137 feet wide, the treaders of each step measuring 4 feet and 5 inches, with the risers 1 foot and 5 inches, uncomfortable proportions for the present decadent race to use very often, (for, from what we read, the present average Yucatecan does not begin to compare in physique with his early forbears) the whole forming an approach that must have been equal in grandeur to any that ever existed in the country. On the ascent being made, a platform 225 feet long by 50 feet broad is found, upon which thirty six columns, or shafts, or pillars, 14 to 16 feet high by 4 feet square, are erected, these are in three rows of twelve each, and which rows are about ten feet apart, running North to South, and about fifteen feet apart, from East to West. The columns are composed of stones from one to two feet thick each, comparatively very few of which have fallen, although some of the pillars certainly have lost various courses.

Subsequently to Stephens observing these remains, and bringing them to the notice of the world, would-be-wise ones have presumed that the columns were intended to support a roof, and suggest, in support of their argument, that as there are no traces of such roof, that it must have been composed of wood, or some

other perishable material, and therefore in consequence of the ravages effected by time, has long since disappeared. other writers pooh pooh this idea, and state that there can be no possible doubt that the place was used for religious rites, for the altars of their sacred fires to wit; but we also learn from early chroniclers, that these columns were for no other purpose than to record the age of the race. They are called "katunes" or epochs, and each stone is supposed to represent twenty years, a small stone was placed on each corner of the uppermost rock, every five years, beginning on the Eastern side, and terminating on the Southern side. Great rejoicings and festivities took place when a column was completed, by the capping stone being added. As has been said many columns are now incomplete, but presumably they had ten large stones each, which would represent two hundred years.

On this presumption, the thirty six shafts would represent a period of some 7200 years, carrying the origin of their race to rather an early epoch, this seems a strong presumption, and to some perhaps may appear unreasonable or absurd, but unfortunately there is no authority that argument can borrow, consequently the statement in the absence of a more erudite solution, must hold good.

The ruins as they stand, represent the work of an herculean race, vastly different to what is seen now-a-days, and many men must have been employed in lifting and putting each stone in its place.

The remains of some more recently constructed buildings, presumably of spanish origin, and erected after the battle, to which reference is made below, is in evidence, but lacking in interest.

Here also, was to be seen the remains of a very ordinary Maya arch, formed of wedge like stones, supporting one another, and kept firmly in place, by the weight or pressure of the cap, which was used instead of the modern key stone.

Beware of the yawning chasm in the neighbourhood, that leads to a Zenote, which is about 40 feet deep and 90 feet in diameter, it has practically no water in it now, and possibly by cleaning out the accumulation of rubbish it contains, would give a goodly amount, as of yore.

To the West of the platform, upon which the thirty six columns are erected, are various other artificial mounds, one of which shows that it was originally terraced. Upon it are the remains of a stone structure, which is called Akabná in the Maya Tongue, or la casa oscura in Spanish, meaning in English the dark-house. All now is in a ruinous state, but it can be seen that some of the stones that were used in the walls, measured as much as seven feet long.

History tells us, that Montejo was very nearly ambushed here by an immense number of natives, and we also read that the Spaniards were terribly frightened, on hearing unearthly noises for which they could not account, but apparently proceeding from the bowels of the earth, their superstituous tendency led them to suppose that the unaccountable din was made by fairies, monsters or devils, which they were convinced frequented the neighbourhood, or even had their abodes in the vicinity. They subsequently heard that the objectionable and unknown noises were produced by blowing upon conchas or hollow shells, (a custom that prevails over many parts of India even unto the present day,) and other means of making a diabolical row.

We read elsewhere, that the Indians had flutes and drums, the latter of all sizes, in fact a large drum took the place of bells at the temples besides accompanying the forces to battle, and the strange weird sound they emitted could be heard a great distance, the noise they made also by striking turtle shells with deer horns, accompanied by fearful shouts, the historian says, seemed to make the hills shake, hyperbole seems to have been used in those days, even more than now.

We also learn that a great battle, to which allusion has already been made, was fought here between the natives and Montejo, in the year 1528, and lasted two days, it was bitterly opposed by the patriots, who were armed with quivers of arrows, sticks burnt at the ends to harden them, lances pointed with sharp flints, and double handed swords of very hard wood. Their bodies were naked, except round the loins, and stained all over with earth of different colours. The Spaniards were astonished at seeing such strange figures, wearing stone rings in their ears and noses, and at one time had very little hope of vanquishing them, but the Adelantado encouraged his men by relating his experience with the indians in other campaigns, and the battle was renewed with increased vigour, and lasted all the first day. Night came on and put an end to the slaughter, but the Indians remained on the ground. The Spaniards had time to rest a little, and bind up their wounds, but kept vigilant watch during the dark and silent hours of the night.

At day break, the battle began again, and continued fiercely until the middle of the day, when the Indians began to give way, the Spaniards encouraged at last by hope of ultimate victory, pressed them until they turned and fled, hiding themselves in the woods, but being ignorant of the country and worn out by constant fighting, the victors could not follow them but were satisfied by remaining masters of the field. We do not learn about the Spanish losses, but read that more than twelve hundred Indians were killed.

On leaving the columns of Aké, it occurs to us, that a resemblance is notable, in more ways than one to the Druidical remains known as Menhirs and Dolmens, erected by man, of mythological age in Brittany, and the pillars of Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plains, in Wiltshire in England, which we remember having seen in our early days, and which ruins, it is generally supposed, and even conceded, were erected by the Druids, for their religious

AKE.

1. Some of the numerous monoliths.

2. The monolithic column of justice.

observances those here may possibly have been built with the same end in view. Quien sabe?

BECAL.

A station on the Campeche Railway, eighty six kilometres from Merida. The ruins here are said to be worth seeing, but as far as we know, no examination has ever been made of them by archaeologists.

CHACK.

On looking at the Sketch Map, about thirty eight kilometres South of Ticul, and equal distance South East of Uxmal, Chack will be found. Here a high building erected on a terrace, stood on a stony hill in Stephen's time, firm and substantial, it consisted of two stories, the roof of the lower one, forming the front platform of the upper one, the building had a staircase, but which was broken and ruined. The upper building had a large apartment in the centre, and a smaller one on either side, greatly encumbered with rubbish. Stephens was strongly of opinion, that several clusters of ruins in the immediate neighbourhood really represented one large city, and at one time the whole region swarmed with a teeming and active population. Further information on this subject is defective.

CHICHEN ITZÁ.

It is most fortunate that the two principal ruined groups, Chichen Itzá and Uxmal, both affording splendid fields for archaeological research, are even now accessible to tourists, and in the near future, when means of communication are improved, the different trips will be made with little fatigue, and still less hardship than is experienced at the present moment.

Chichen Itzá, meaning in the ancient Maya language The City of the Sacred Well, is said to be in many respects the finest and most interesting of the two.

To get to this place which contains the only group of ruins in its immediate neighbourhood, all the others to which we refer being in other and different directions, we take the train, at present leaving the San Cristobal Station, the Merida terminus of the Eastern or Valladolid Branch of the United Railways of Yucatan; at half past six in the morning.

It is naturally supposed that you have called upon Mr. Andres Solis Camara, the Curator of all the ruins belonging to the State of Yucatan, whose residence is at Nº 553, 59th Street, and obtained from him the necessary permits to explore the ruins, without which inconvenience or annoyance is likely to be experienced.

Take your railway tickets to the Station of Ɔitas, more correctly pronounced Tcitas, a distance of one hundred and forty two kilometres, or about ninety miles, where a volan, a conveyance peculiar to the country, and liable to remain such, drawn by a team of mules, can be hired to take you to your destination, or perhaps preferably a saddle animal could be substituted. The road, certainly at the present writing, is not the best in the world, but it nevertheless has advantages, as any one troubled with a sluggish or torpid liver decidedly derives benefit from the trip. In about four

CHICHEN ITZA.

1. Arch at hacienda.
2. Second and third stories of the Nunnery.

hours after leaving the Oitás railway station, having covered some eighteen miles, we pass some of the principal ruins, and arrive at the residential building of the hacienda, upon the grounds of which all the ruins are located, some people retain a lasting memory of this volan trip, but a good meal being soon prepared, the mind is placed on more agreeable subjects for the moment.

Every household requirement is to be found here, but at present it is advisable to be provided for all contingencies, by taking necessary edibles and kindred accompaniments with you, as the proprietor is not always present, but should he happen to be so, things would be altogether different, as he, being a whole souled American, gives a warm reception to visitors, especially those bringing introductory credentials, the consequence is that Chichen Itzá is perhaps better known to tourists and foreigners in general, and therefore more popular than any other region possessing ruins, besides it is contemplated in the near future, to develop all the advantages it has, and to give the place modern improvements, suitable to constitute it a still more notable tourist resort.

From an archaeological point of view, Chichen Itzá is considered by competent observers, the most important of the two great ruined groups alluded to, it is certainly the healthiest, and is filled with remarkable objects of antiquity, that to describe all, even briefly, would take up far more time and space than can be given in this work. Its natural wonders, deep pools, grottoes, stalactites entwined with creeping orchids and strange jungle vines, subterranean caves, with traces of ....were they also cave dwellers or what? all these are at the disposition and conjecture of the visitor, who is enthusiast enough to take the trouble of going to see them.

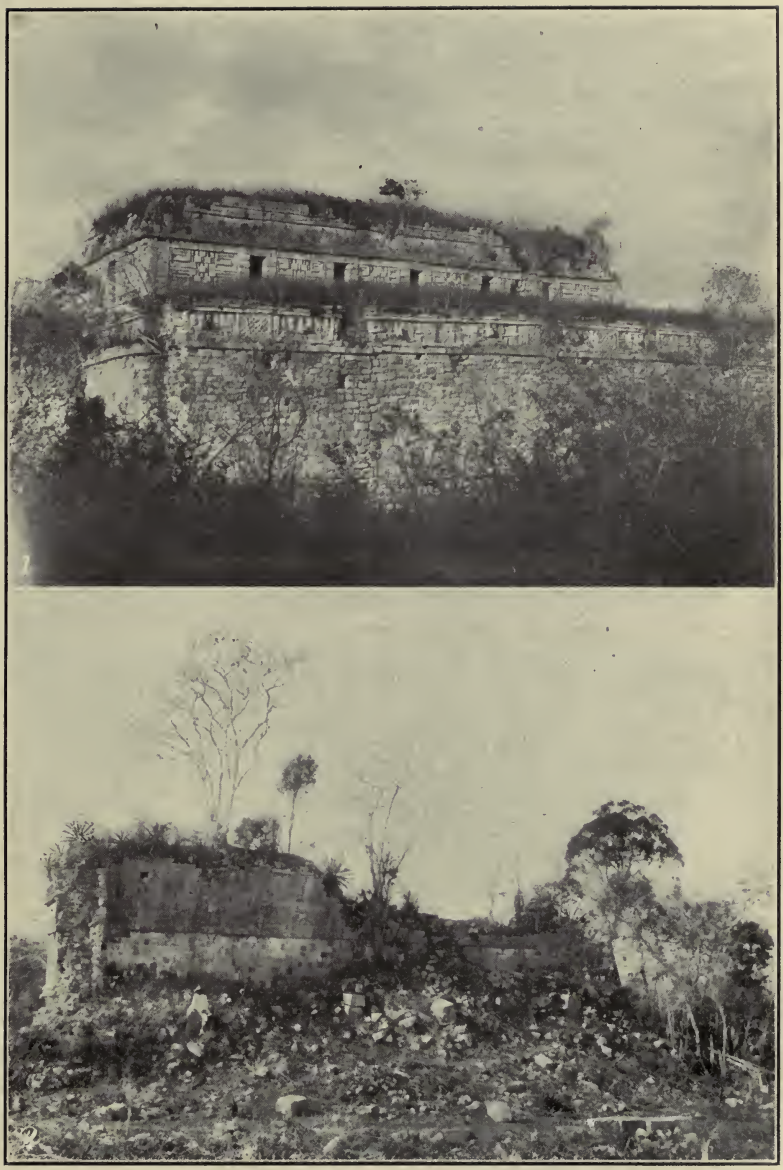
A Maya manuscript places the first discovery of Chichen Itzá within the epochs corresponding between

the years 360 and 432 A. D. although reliable dates prior to the year 1292 seem impossible to obtain, as those accessible do not suggest confidence, but in that year, there is á general consensus of opinion among historians, that Hunuc Eel, the General of the Mayapan forces, (See article on Mayapan) thoroughly defeated the army of Ulmil King of Chichen Itzá, and that many of the inhabitants fearing aggression by the victors, emigrated to the neighbourhood of Peten Itzá, in the Northern part of the Republic of Guatemala, and never returned. There are pretty little romances extant, relating to this exodus, but they are hardly considered suitable to the sober pages of this sketch.

We are satisfied however, that the fall of the kingdom took place in the thirteenth century, that is, it was then robbed of all its glory.

Grijalva, Cordova, Cortes and other Spanish adventurers, skirted the shores of Yucatan, fought the natives, and then proceeded to their various destinations, without going inland or really trying to effect the complete conquest of the neighbourhood, but persons bearing the well known name of Francisco Montejo, possessed equally by a father, a son, and a nephew, undertook the task that was to make them the final conquerors of the country. It is interesting to know that their desire was, we are told, to make Chichen Itzá the Spanish capital of the land, but that part of their programme was interfered with, the enraged natives having opposed them so sturdily, that they thought it prudent to beat a retreat, and seek entrance into the interior by a different route, with the intention of making T'ho, another ancient centre of the race called the Chanes, their chief city, which place is now known by the title bestowed upon it by the Spanish king, the "very loyal and noble" city of Merida, the capital of the most sovereign State of Yucatan.

The etymology of Chichen Itzá is clear and well understood, Chi is the native word for mouth, and Cen



CHICHEN ITZA.

1. East Façade of the Monjas.
2. Ceremonial court.

for well, Itzá or Itzaes was the name of the wise and holy people of this great City, and with which word alone is embraced almost enough interesting facts to fill a volume, but Mr. Edward H. Thompson, late United States Consul to Yucatan and Campeche, and no better authority exists, claims that the origin of the word is made up as follows:—Ah is the ancient native expression for masculinity, Tzab chan means rattlesnake, or Tzab or Tza alone, means rattler, combining the two by the well known existing laws of elision and euphony, we obtain the combination Ah tzab or Ah tza, or Itzá, meaning they of the rattlesnake. The Chanes above mentioned, they of light skin, were known as the people of the snake, that reptile taking a very prominent place in the heathen mythology. The Itzá or Itzaes were it is presumed the descendents of the Chanes, and who perpetuated their holiness and sanctity.

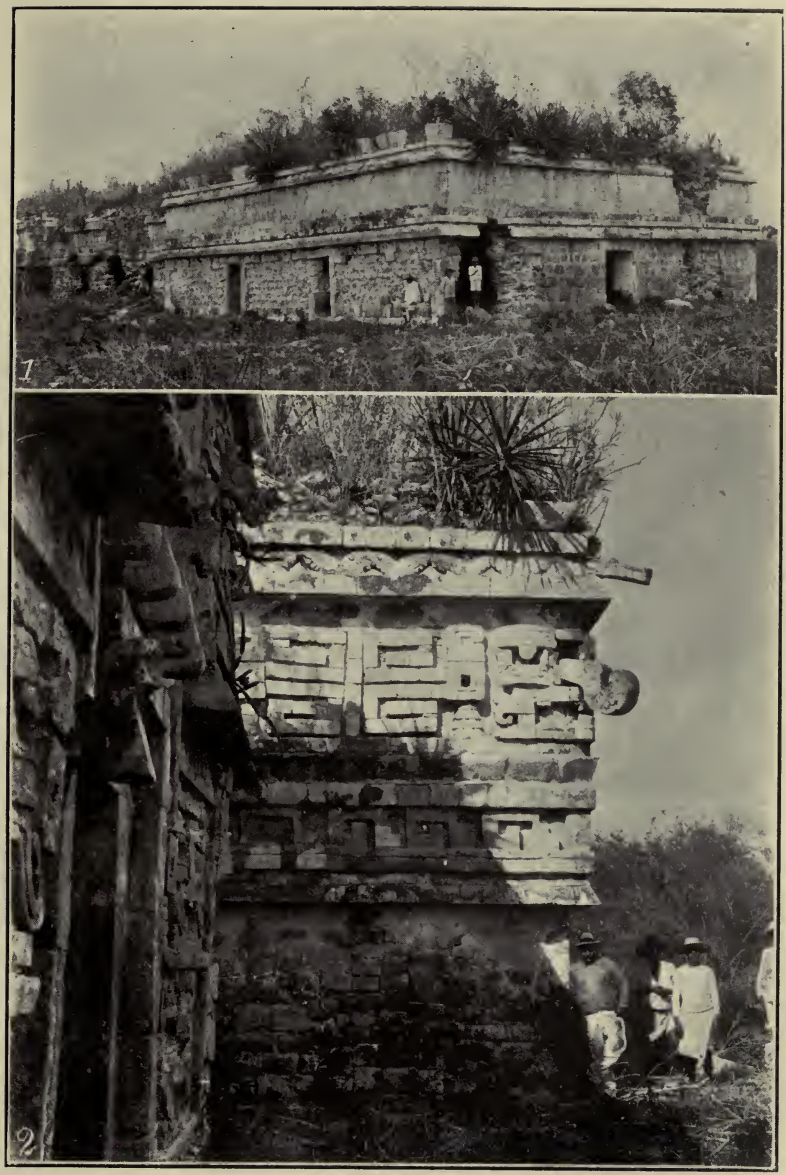
It has been stated that an absence of historical reference is much in evidence, and this being so different from the funds of information generally possessed by other countries, an explanation seems necessary, although the question is unfortunately very easy to answer. The absence of reliable history, or any history in fact is readily explained, when we read that the zealot roman catholic Spanish bishop, Diego de Landa, seeing on old rolls of deer-skin, and so called volumes of Maguey paper, signs that he could not read, and symbols that he could not understand, concluded that they were unquestionably cabalistic signs of a diabolical character, and caused them, together with five thousand idols of different forms and sizes, thirteen altar stones, twenty two small carved stones, (for what service these were intended is not stated) twenty seven rolls of ancient hieroglyphics on deer skins, one hundred and ninety seven vases of all sizes and designs, besides many other unrecorded objects, to be destroyed by fire, on the public square of Mani, a small place between Ticul and Tekax.

It naturally appeals to us, as having been a wanton, savage, dastardly and unjustifiable act, for any time or place, and for a supposed enlightened man of a Christian church to be capable of apparently such scandalous fanatical ignorance, is simply unpardonable. Is it to be wondered at that the natives who witnessed the destruction of their sacred treasures, all their written lore, and the accumulated records and history of their race going up in smoke, and being calcined in the devouring element, should be greatly afflicted, and make a loud and ineffectual cry of woe and desperation.

We are to a certain extent consoled by learning that Bishop Landa's act of vandalism caused him to be severely reprimanded and punished by his Superiors, but still the harm was done, the funds of information so eagerly sought for that the destroyed documents and records were supposed to contain, could never be replaced.

But subsequent reading, compels us in justice to look leniently upon the act, and offer a word in extenuation for the streneous action taken by Landa, as mentioned above, for his apparently remorseless action in destroying the precious herediments belonging to the people of Chichen Itzá, when we learn that the pagan priesthood were so abominably idolatrous, and steeped in such sodden fanatical ignorance, that it was only by a terrible remedy that the terrible disease could be cured, we learn that the same course had to be adopted in the City of Mexico, or Anahuac, as it was called in those days, by the Franciscan priest Torquemada.

Prescott tells us that "their altars reeked with the blood of human hecatombs in every city of the country, disastrous indeed must have been the influence of such superstition on the character of the people" so after due consideration, we are forced to admit, that possibly the above mentioned divines had no other alternative, when wrestling with the revolting situation that had no precedent.



CHICHEN ITZA.

1. Ceremonial court.
2. South Façade of the Monjas.

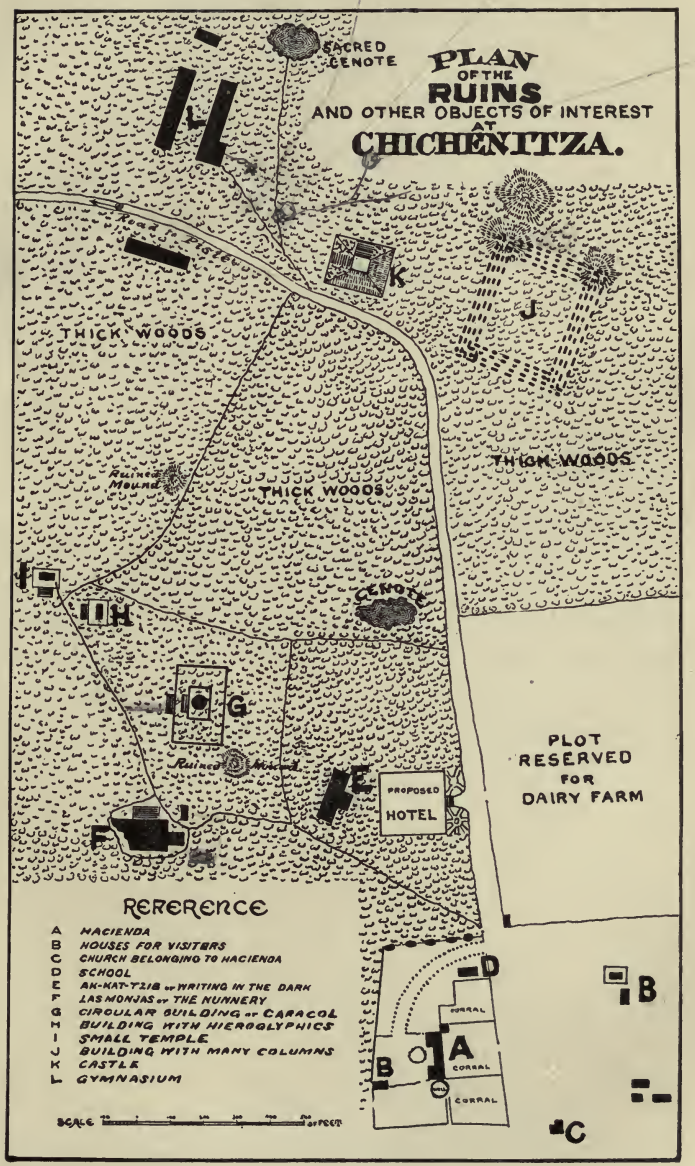
The ancient Chichen Itzá, we have reason to suppose, covered an area of more than ten square miles, on which to the present day, are scattered carved and squared stones in countless thousands, fallen columns by the hundreds, while formless remains and outlined walls of huge stone structures are seen on every side, one cannot walk for five minutes within this area, without stumbling on a line of buried masonry, a fallen stone pillar, or a formless mound, the remains of which was once an important stone building. Seven of the largest structures of carved stone, with façades naturally grey and seamed with the ravages of time, are still so perfect in form and outline, as to give to the curious and wondering visitors, an almost perfect idea of the original plans and methods of the ancient builders. Four of these structures are so nearly perfect in some portions, as to be almost habitable to day; in them, some of the stone chambers are practically intact, the roofs are tight and the massive walls upright and strong, despite the war that time has waged against them. Anomalous as it many appear, many trees actually grow on the flat roof, causing one to believe, without any great stretch of imagination, that they are walking on the very ground consequently with the roots of those trees pervading in all directions, insidiously working in a climate that stimulates their growth, they will soon assert their natural power, and cause irretrievable destruction. We regret to say that these latter words apply too forcibly to all ruins we have seen, including Palenque, but are pleased with the knowledge that the Government is now including in the annual Budget, a considerable appropriation for the conservancy of these treasures, being at last perfectly cognizant of the fact, that they have not a peer in any other part of the world. We therefore hope streneous efforts will be made to clear away all the pernicious growth, and preserve what still remains to the glory of the country, and for the benefit of future generations.

As we proceed to describe the various objects of interest at Chichen Itzá, one by one, to make our description clearer, we have prepared and now insert a Map showing the position of the various ruins, although many mounds and ruined buildings are to be found outside the limits of the paper. The Map is made from actual surveys. The buildings shown are enclosed within a perimeter of two miles, making the diameter as it were, about two thirds of a mile. Referring to it, the position of the hut is shown, in which Mr. J. L. Stephens resided in 1841. To him and the present owner of the surrounding lands we are indebted for our unusually copious notes, with a wholesome satisfaction in their authenticity, although with hesitation, fearing that they will be considered too verbose.

Proceeding in a North Western direction from the said hut, and about three hundred yards from the Hacienda, by a path which is shown on the Map, we come to an interesting building, called by the natives,

Ah-Kab-Tzib, or the House of the Dark Writing

for the reason that in the gloom of the inner chamber, there being two of the same dimensions, nineteen feet by eight feet six inches, a stone lintel can be indistinctly seen, that is ornamented with glyphs, besides showing on its under surface, the representation of a seated figure apparently in the act of offering up what is supposed to be a burnt sacrifice; although it may be, as some suggest, the preparation of some act of incantation or religious rite, it may here be stated what will not only apply to this region, but to all the ruins of the State, that the imagination has full sway, for what will possibly appear most rational to one, may be accepted by


SACRED CENOTE
PLAN OF THE RUINS AND OTHER OBJECTS OF INTEREST AT CHICHENITZA.
ROAD TO PISTE
THICK WOODS
RUINED MOUND
THICK WOODS
THICK WOODS
CENOTE
PROPOSED HOTEL
PLOT RESERVED FOR DAIRY FARM
CORRAL
CORRAL
CORRAL
REFERENCE
A HACIENDA
B HOUSES FOR VISITORS
C CHURCH BELONGING TO HACIENDA
D SCHOOL
E AK-MAT-TZIB or WRITING IN THE DARK
F LAS MONJAS or THE NUNNERY
G CIRCULAR BUILDING or CARACOL
H BUILDING WITH HIEROGLYPHICS
I SMALL TEMPLE
J BUILDING WITH MANY COLUMNS
K CASTLE
L GYMNASIUM
SCALE
FEET

another as far fetched and improbable, Stephens in alluding to the subject, concludes by adding "Physical force may raze these buildings to the ground, and lay bare all the secrets they may contain, but physical force can never unravel the mystery that involves this sculptured lintel." Moulds not only of it, but in fact, all interesting sculptures and bas reliefs in the neighbourhood have been taken, and in due time will be exhibited at the Peabody Museum of the Harvard University.

On measuring the building, which contains eighteen apartments, it is found to be one hundred and forty nine feet long, and forty eight feet broad, the façade has been greatly neglected, as the want of external decoration, in fact absence of architectural embellishment is notably apparent. On entering however, the remains of what was once a grand staircase forty five feet wide, is found, which must have looked imposing in its time, rising as it did in the centre of the building and extending to the roof. On each side of this staircase are two doorways, leading into rooms. At the South end of one of them, is another opening which gives access to a chamber, nineteen feet long by eight feet six inches wide, around which still hangs mystery. Besides these entrances there are seven more on the Western façade, one of which gives entrance to a large natural depression in the floor, for what purpose it is difficult to imagine. Here will be found plenty of food for thought, for in the centre of the building is what is presumably a solid mass of masonry, forty four by thirty feet, and as high as the roof, some people think nevertheless that this large mass contains interior chambers, but this, has not so far been investigated.

Leaving the House of the Dark Writing, and following the path indicated on the accompanying map, a distance of some one hundred and fifty yards to the West, we reach a fence, of more modern date, although now old and toppling, but which evidently once formed

a cattle corral of the old plantation. On the other side two other buildings can be seen through the trees, and the end façade of a long majestic pile, called like one of the principal edifices at Uxmal

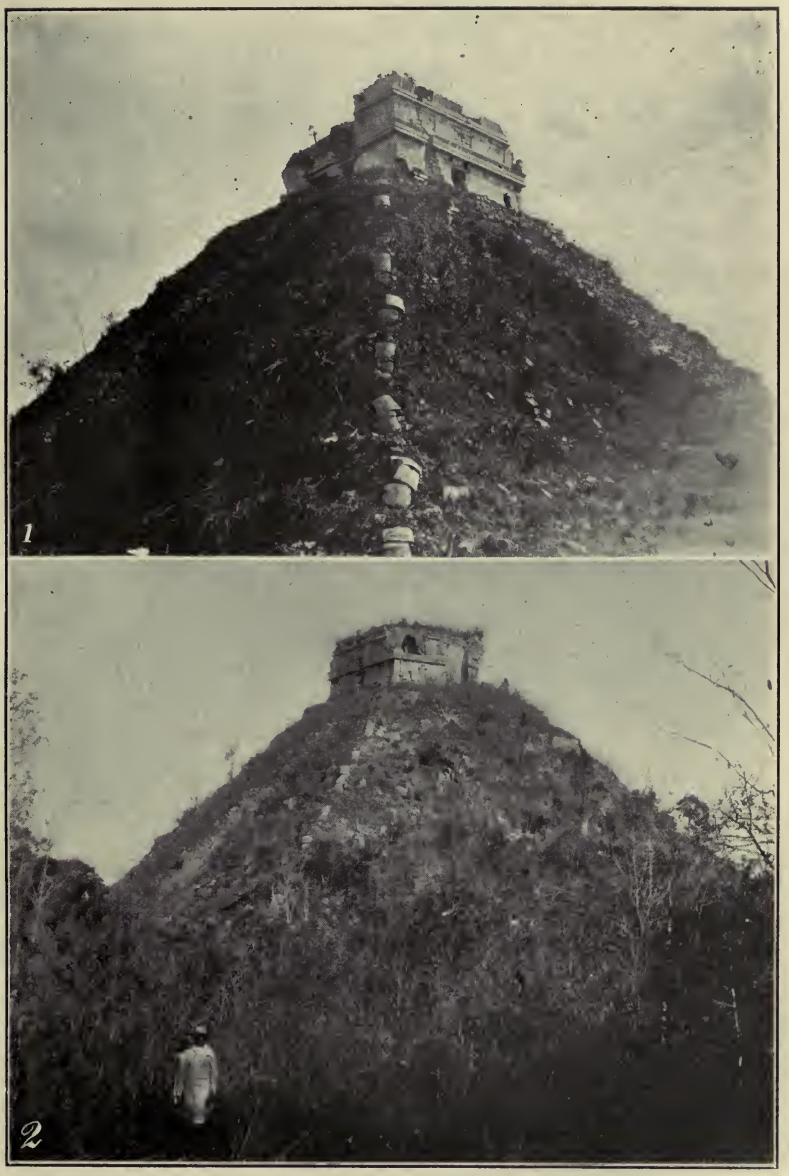
Las Monjas or The Nunnery,

which is found in a remarkably good state of preservation, the rich beauty of its ornamentation is notable, particularly in comparison to the extreme plainness of the one just left, but whether the name the building bears accurately indicates its original purpose is not known, although we do know that among these ancient people a social organization existed, somewhat resembling, although in a modified form, the Society of Monks and Nuns.

How much or how little accuracy there is in the name we may not know, but the edifice is probably the most ancient of all the structures now standing, how old no one knows, but the fact is evident that the central portion of the structure was old and time worn before its pitted surface was buried in the plastic mass of newer masonry. Then in time this too was hidden under the present walls, new and clear lined then, but now gray and seamed by time and the elements, and this in a land where the ice never forms, the frost never rives and dryness is more evident than dampness or moisture.

The façades of these later portions of the great mass of stone and lime are wonderful examples of stone work and ancient Mexican symbolism. It is very doubtfil if their equal exists.

The true beauty of the carvings and the perfect proportions of the structure can never be seen to advantage, until the debris which now hides the base, and which destroys the true symmetry of the edifice is removed, this the authorities have promised to do, and



CHICHEN ITZA.

1. The Castle.
2. Castillo.

although procrastination predominates, we can live in hope that even in our day, we may be able to see, and perhaps satisfy our craving at being able to learn something new.

The height of the façade is twenty five feet, and its width thirty five feet, it has two cornices of tasteful and elaborate design. Over the doorway are twenty small sculptured bands of hieroglyphics in four rows, five in a row, and to make room for which the lower cornice is carried up. Over these, standing out in a line, are six bold projecting curved ornaments, like those presented from the House of the Governor at Uxmal, resembling elephant's trunks, and an irregular circular niche is in the upper centre space over the doorway, in which portions of a seated figure with a head dress of feathers, still remain. The rest of the ornaments are of that distinctive stamp, characteristic of the ancient Mexican cities, and unlike the designs of any other people, with which the reader must now be familiar.

The tropical plants and shrubs growing on this roof which when we first saw it, hung over the cornice like a fringe, added greatly to the picturesque effect of this elegant façade.

The front of the same building is composed of two structures entirely different to one another, one of which forms a sort of wing to the principal edifice, and has at the end a facade.

The whole length is two hundred and twenty eight feet, and the depth of the principal structure is one hundred and twelve feet. The only portion containing interior chambers is that which we have called the wing, this has two doorways opening into the chambers, both of which are twenty six feet long, and eight feet deep, behind each of which is another of corresponding dimensions, now containing several feet of mortar and stones, and bearing the appearance of having been originally filled up solid to the ceiling, making again "casas cerradas" or closed houses. The number of chambers in

this wing is nine, and these are all the apartments to be found on the ground floor. The great structure to which the wing adjoins is apparently a solid mass of stone also, erected solely for the purpose of sustaining the two ranges of buildings erected upon it.

A grand but steep staircase, the largest we have seen in the country, with very narrow treaders, and high risers, characteristic of work done by sandal wearing people, leads up to the important second story, which sets back from the face of the lower floor, thus leaving an open level space of some thirty feet wide, broken in the centre of the front, by the staircase leading to the third story. On one side of this staircase is a huge breach, twenty or thirty feet deep, which has been made in a ruthless manner, by some vandal, for the purpose of getting out building stone, this apparent barbarity fortunately only discloses solid masonry. The staircase is thirty two feet high, and has thirty nine steps, showing the height of each step to be in the neighbourhood of ten inches.

On this floor stands a range of apartments, with a platform of fourteen feet in front and all round, and from the back of this platform the grand staircase with the same width as below, ascends with fifteen steps to the floor of the next range, which forms a platform in front of the third tier of rooms, which unfortunately are in a ruinous condition, here as well as in all other similar cases, it is to be observed that the ancient architects never placed an upper building on the roof of one below, but always on a structure solid from the ground, the roof of the lower range merely forming a platform in front of the apartments of the floor above.

The Northern face of the second story has two entrances into chambers, and four large recesses that are either blind doorways or were once true entrances into chambers formerly existing in the original structure, but subsequently filled up to make a solid foundation for the third story directly above, when this was

CHICHEN ITZA.

1. Ah, Kab, Tzib.
2 Façade of Ah-Kab-Tzib.

done, the doorways remained as simple niches, and over these a flying buttress was thrown, to form the newer structure above, this is our hypothesis, subject to modification that future investigations possibly may confirm.

The stone lintels over every entrance, existing or blind, built into this face or in the end walls, are covered with handsome still legible glyphs, clearly legible it is true, but nevertheless as unreadable as a sealed book.

Unciphered and mysterious, they are the pleasure and the despair of those who seek the problems that they hold.

All the chambers in the second story of this edifice, have within the wall spaces opposite the entrances, various niches about the height of the entrances but narrower. None, not even the smaller chambers have less than two, and the low narrow middle chamber on the South face has five.

These may have been doorways, originally giving entrance into the primitive structure, but closed when the central addition was made into a solid core, although various circumstances, among them being the presence and position of the recesses in the walls of the end chamber cause us to throw aside this hypothesis, they possessing appearances of having been true niches, perhaps repositories where at one time were stored away all the records and written lore ef the Itzaes, the Maya wisemen, which as we have stated were ruthlessly destroyed

The perimeter of this building is six hundred and thirty eight feet, and its original height evidently sixty five feet. It seems to have been constructed only with reference to the second range of apartments, upon which the art and skill of the builders have been lavishly expended, the third story addition, apparently an after thought, is one hundred and four feet long by thirty feet wide, and the broad platform round it although overgrown with high grass, in its time a noble promenade,

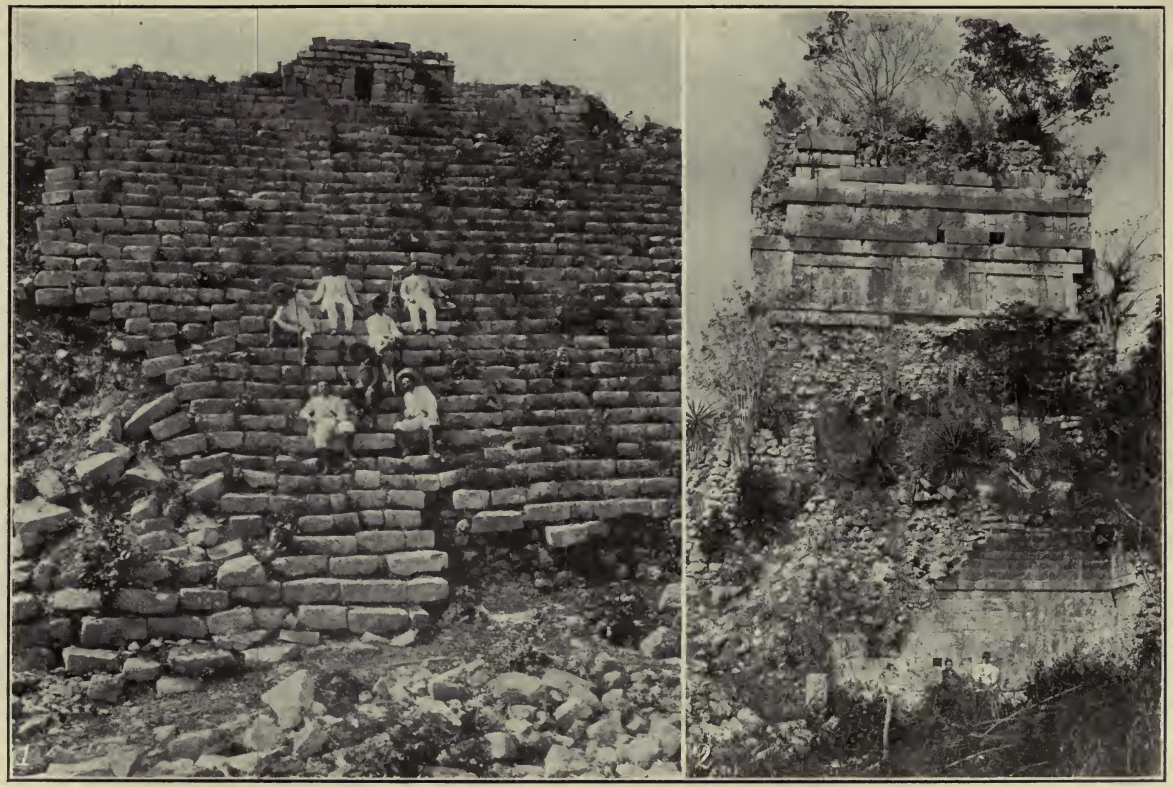
commanded a magnificent view of the whole surrounding country.

On one side of the staircase are five doorways, of which the three centre ones are false, appearing to be merely recesses. The spaces between the doorways containing combinations of ornaments of unusual taste and elegance, both in arrangement and design. The other two doors open into chambers, in each of which are three long recesses in the back wall, extending from floor to ceiling, which were evidently once ornamented with paintings. At each end of the building is another chamber with three niches or recesses, and on the other side facing the South, the three centre doorways corresponding with the false doors on the North, open into an apartment forty seven feet long by nine broad, having nine long niches in the back wall, all the walls from the floor to the peak of the arch were originally covered with painted designs, now wantonly defaced, or possibly destroyed by birds, but those that do remain present colours in some places still bright and vivid, and among these detached portions human figures well drawn continually recur, the heads adorned with plumes of feathers, and the hands bearing shields and spears.

All attempt fails, when trying to describe the strange interest felt, in walking along the overgrown platform of this gigantic and desolate building.

As has been stated most of the rooms of this group bear evident traces of having once been covered with elaborate mural paintings, round the corners and on the unbroken portions of the smooth hard finish in the recesses, are traces of broad bands painted in various colours, forming the panelled outlines for the detailed figures within. On the ceiling are still depicted houses, trees, city walls and nondescript animals but in fragments.

On the inner walls of the chamber at the Eastern



CHICHEN ITZA.

1. Principal staircase.

2. Temple of the Tigers.

end, can be clearly seen, the impress of the "red hand," another of the unsolved problems.

The third story is small, and suggests incompleteness, its present state of ruins prevents the last word being spoken, or until investigation has taken place under the guidance of some so-called competent person, or one who has been sufficiently fortunate in finding the talisman similar to the Rosetta Stone.

Descending to the ground and proceeding in a North Eastern direction, for about five hundred feet, two one story buildings are found, on the right and left of the Nunnery, in the nature of detached wings, all were once overgrown, but the Government have their care and preservation at heart, and they are now being kept quite clear of growth and destructive influences. One of these buildings is twenty two feet from the Nunnery, and measures thirty eight by thirteen feet, decorated considerably above the cornice, but in other respects not calling for attention. It is referred to as a "Small Temple" in the Table of Reference, the other

"La Iglesia" or The Church

is still quite perfect, and the symbolical figures encrusted on its richly worked façade have long been objects of study to the student, and of curiosity to the tourist.

The façade of the church is twenty six feet high, its comparatively great height adding very much to the effect of its appearance. It has three cornices, and the space between each is richly ornamented. The sculpture is rude but grand, the principal ornament is over the doorway, and on each side are two human figures in a sitting position, but unfortunately greatly mutilated. The portion of the façade above the second cornice is merely an ornamental wall.

The whole of the building, as before said, is in a good state of preservation. The interior consists of a

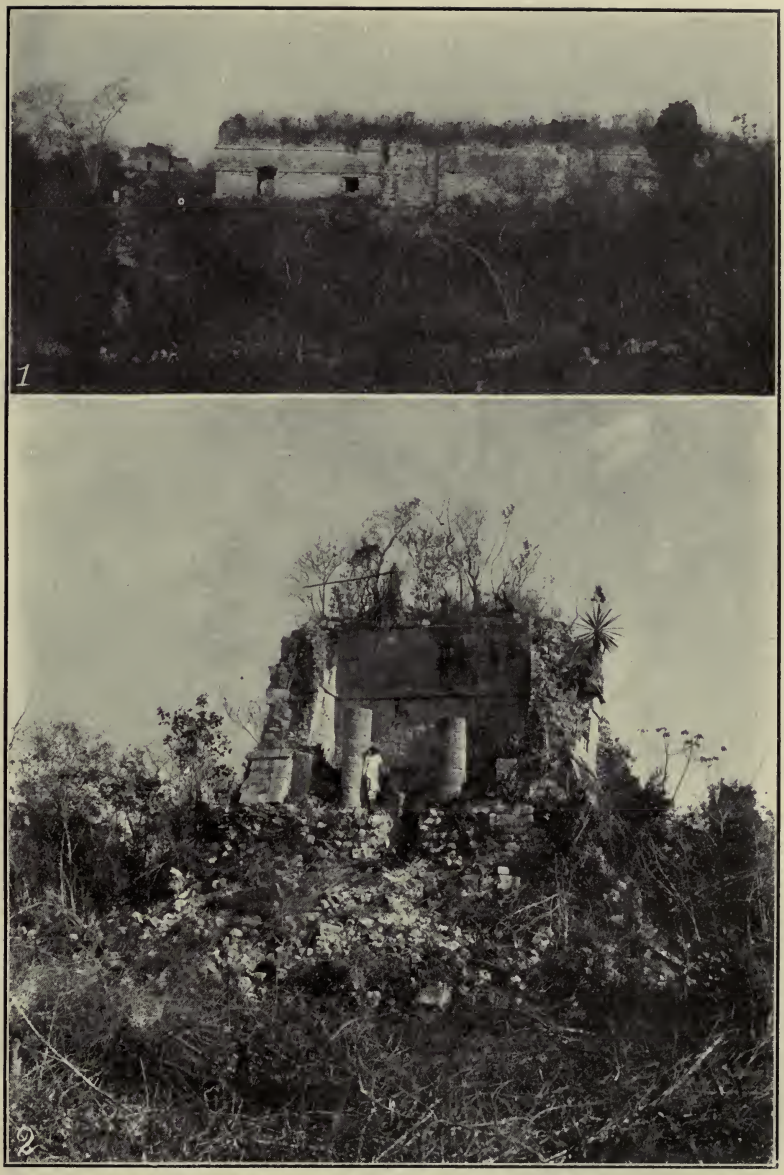
single apartment, once covered with plaster, and along the top of the wall, under the arch, are seen the traces of a line of medallions in plaster, which originally contained hieroglyphics. The smaller building of the two is of no apparent importance or special interest.

Leaving the "Iglesia", and after proceeding four hundred feet in a Northerly direction, along the path shown on the Map, we reach a particularly picturesque building, conspicuous among the ruins belonging to Chichen Itzá, it is unique in plan and outline, bearing no similarity to any other edifice in Chiapas or Yucatan, with the exception of a very ruined structure at Mayapan, it being circular in form, the shape of its chambers and above all the peculiar inner stairway winding around a solid centre, have combined, caused the natives to call it

"El Caracol" or the House of the Snail.

Its purpose is unknown, but from its construction, and the position of its outlook, it is believed to have been devoted to astronomical study. From the fact that the Calendar system being so accurately computed, it is clear that the learned ones, the wise men among those people were astronomers, not mere star gazers, and there are found among the Mayas of the present day, those that have a surprising knowledge of celestial geography.

The edifice rises like a turret, forty feet in height, with an interior diameter of twenty six feet six inches, which in its turn has a solid centre seven feet six inches in diameter, all stands upon a base consisting of two terraces, the lower one of which is two hundred and twenty three feet from North to South, with a width of one hundred and fifty feet from East to West. The remains of a grand staircase forty feet wide, containing, twenty steps, rises to the base of the upper terrace



CHICHEN ITZA.

1. West Façade, Ah-Kab-Tzib.
2. North Side, Temple of the Tigers.

The two internal corridores mentioned, were covered by a triangular arch, making the plan of the building very original.

This concludes the buildings on the West side of the Public Road, which are still standing, but immense mounds remain, with vestiges of buildings upon them, and colossal stones and fragments of sculpture at their feet which are impossible to present in detail.

The Building with many Columns.

An area of nearly four hundred feet square, enclosed with about four hundred or more short stone columns, averaging four feet six inches high, and in regular rows of four or five deep, like soldiers marching round, are here seen. No possible use can be ascribed to them, and no information can be elicited respecting them, in any of the numerous works studied, we therefore leave them with much regret, and proceed about two hundred feet to the West, where we find

"El Castillo" or the Castle.

This great temple is said to have been in the centre of the ancient city, in fact in the centre of most cities of antiquity, was a castle and temple, both in one.

The old custom has been handed down, for even to day in all parts of the country, the plaza will invariably be found in the centre of the village, town or city, as the case may be, having its principal buildings, such as church, town house, courts etc, surrounding it.

The castle constitutes the most conspicuous object that towers above the plain, without in any way disparaging the beautiful House of the Snail, recently alluded to.

CHICHEN ITZA.

1. Caracol or House of the Snail.
2. Temple of the Tigers.

site one another, one of these rings has fallen from its place, and now lies prostrate below. On the rims and borders of the rings were sculptured entwined serpents.

To the North and South of these great moles, are the half ruined remains of two small temple structures, with carved walls and columns, time worn and weather beaten, shrine-like they seem to guard the entrance to the Ceremonial Court, but they themselves, together with their time carved walls and columns are now fully exposed to the wear of the elements.

On the Southern extremity of the Eastern Mole, rests an edifice like a casket holding jewels, that in time, as the fact becomes known, will be in itself the object of distant pilgrimage, this time by modern students and tourists. It is known as

The Temple of the Tigres,

and consists of two ranges on its Southern façade, one even with the ground, and the other about twenty feet above it, the latter being in a fair state of preservation, simple and tasteful in the arrangement of its ornamentation, especially having a zone band conspicuous for its artistic design, representing a procession of tigers, or more correctly lynxes, alternating with shields. From its lofty position, with trees growing around it and upon the roof, the effect is beautifully picturesque, but it has besides a far greater interest, as it must be regarded in some respects the most important structure to be met with in the various ruins. The entire front has disappeared, forced out of place by the insiduous roots of the above named trees, and now lies a shapeless mass below. The lower building is also in a ruinous condition and shows only the remains of two columns covered with sculptured figures, the fallen front has laid bare the entire internal wall of the chamber, which is covered from one end to the other with elaborately sculptu-

CHICHEN ITZA.

1. Rear Façade of (so-called) church.
2. Temple of the Tigers.

red figures in bas relief, but from their exposure for ages the elements have caused the details to fade and they are now quite indistinct. The human figures are represented as wearing head dresses composed of the usual plume of feathers, and in the upper row, each figure carries a bundle of spears or a quiver of darts. All these figures were painted, and the effect must have been very beautiful when all was entire. The indians call this chamber Stohl, and say that the scene depicted represents a dance of the ancients, and the bas reliefs too have their interpretation, which must be taken for what they are worth. Above the chambers of the Temple proper, and on the walls of the inner chamber, can still be seen the finest examples yet known, of mural paintings executed by the artists of this ancient race, the best preserved portion represents a battle scene, the attacking party with dart throwers, and those with spears and shields are seemingly assaulting a city. Above the battle field can be seen tier upon tier of houses, and amid them are women in agonised postures, looking down upon the fighting warriors, in an other place is the symbolical figure of Kukul Can, the deity whose symbol is a feathered serpent, besides other scenes and portions of figures are depicted.

One hundred feet from the Northern extremity, facing the open space between the walls, stands on an elevation, a building thirty five feet long, containing a single chamber, with the front fallen, and rising from among the rubbish are the remains of two elaborately ornamented sculptured columns, the whole interior wall being exposed to view, covered from the floor to the peak of the arch with sculptured figures in bas relief, although much worn and faded. At the other end, also setting back, and commanding the space between the walls, is another building eighty one feet long, also ruined, and exhibiting the remains of two richly ornamented columns with sculptured figures in bas relief.

The position in which the walls and buildings stand to each other is laid down in the general plan.

From the North of the level terrace, already alluded to, and upon which the pyramid supporting the Temple is erected, a raised macadamised road, which was considered the sacred way, twenty five feet wide, runs for a distance of some nine hundred feet, to one of the two great water pits, in the precincts of the ancient city. This one named Chunkú, was in reality that which gave city its name, "The City of the Sacred Well," a weird deep pool of jade green water, considered sacred by the ancient people, who in times of dire need pestilence or drouth, used to throw in votive offerings of various descriptions, including human sacrifices, not only prisoners of war, but beautiful maidens drugged with the sacred ambrosia "balche," to conciliate the offended deity.

The other well, a deep pool of water, bearing the name of Chaloc, as cool and crystaline as any spring fed lake, was used to furnish the water supply to the City, and is situated about two hundred feet to the West of the road leading to Pisté, and about five hundred fect a little East by North of the building known as the "Ah-kab-tzib", to which reference has already been made.

In conclusion, it is with considerable regret that these notes have heen written in as brief a manner as possible, as justice has not been done to the thousand and one sights to be found at Chichen Itzá, we can only refer readers who are desirous of knowing more on the subject, to an extensive work, shortly to be published by Mr. Edward H. Thompson.

CHICHEN ITZA.

1. Church.
2. The Temple of the Tigers.

IZAMAL.

By the present Time Table, issued by the United Railway Company of Yucatan, a daily train leaves the Mejorada Station, in Merida, at 4.40 p. m., but investigation should be made to see that no alteration has been made, as Time Tables are susceptible of change without notice. The train going directly due East for 67 kilometres, or say 50 miles, arrives at Izamal in an hour and three quarters, but as far back, as Euan, another Station on the road, 30 kilometres from Merida, the ruins or rather mounds at Izamal are to be seen from the car windows, in fact they are not lost sight of for the rest of the journey. The Izamal Station is less than a mile from the town, but vehicles are in waiting to take you there. Presuming you have brought your hammock with you, you are independent, although creature comforts and accommodation can be obtained at P. Bautista's Restaurant, on the Plaza.

History tells us that Izamal is the oldest city on the Peninsula, dating back fully two thousand years, although a Mr. Manuel A. Lanz in his recently published History of Campeche is not satisfied with Izamal being of, comparatively speaking, so recent an origin, boldly affirming instead, that the place was founded three thousand, two hundred and ninety one years before the Christian era.

While having no authority to enable us to challenge this apparently reckless treatment of centuries, it is difficult to understand upon what basis he establishes his erudite assertion; but whatever the actual date really was, we read that the place had once an immensely imposing appearance, when its original twenty seven hand made mounds were in their pristine and perfect state, but as what has been left is so different, it is naturally difficult to form an idea of its magnificence, that at one time did unquestionably exist.

Megalithic stones, some measuring six feet long four feet broad, and over a foot thick which once formed the

lower part of a splendid staircase, besides carved stones, which at one time helped to adorn some temple, are frequently to be seen built into some modern structure.

The heavy hand of time, and the equally destructive hand of the vandal, have played sad havoc, not only with this, but all the ruins in the State.

Only recently the authorities have awakened to realizing and appreciating the value of the antiquities that have been left to them, as it is to be regretted that foreign visitors, have in a barefaced manner, made a boast, that they had taken away everything that possessed any value or merit, but at the eleventh hour, custodians and caretakers have been appointed, who invariably exercise great vigilance allowing no person without a pass to visit the ruins, this document is procurable at the residence of Señor Don Andres Solis Camara, Nº 553, Calle 59, Merida, that personage being in charge of all the ruins in the State. On arrival at the ruins, and on the pass being presented, the holder is personally conducted, and every action carefully observed bringing to our minds in a painfully impressive manner, the old saying, of locking the stable door after the horse had been stolen.

As to the mounds to which We have already referred, there was once, it is said, a group of twenty seven, but now only seven of any importance exist, the others having been ruthlessly carried away, for building purposes. These mounds were of different dimensions for at a distance of about seven hundred and fifty feet from the plaza, there is one (Kanichkakmó) having originally the enormous size of six hundred and fifty feet square, and eighty four feet high, which it is stated has interior chambers, but which statement is extremely doubtful, while another mound measures only two hundred feet square, with a height of thirty feet, and others much less, apparently solid in their construction. It must not be forgotten that attention has already been called to the fact, that these mounds are all hand made, they

1. CHICHEN ITZA. East Façade of the Nunnery, and the so-called Church.
2. IZAMAL. Roman Catholic Church built on site of pagan temple.

naturally in consequence calling for more attention to be paid to them, than if they were natural.

The remains of the great plaza in the centre of the city, but considerably reduced in size, was originally decorated on its four sides by as many pyramids, the oldest of which is said to be the Easterly one, which formed the base of a very important temple, it was called Itzamatul, dedicated to Zama, in whom the people had implicit faith and blind confidence. The temple was continually visited, not only by the inhabitants of all parts of the peninsula but also by pilgrims from afar, who came frequently to consult with the priests in time of trouble and tribulation, it being also a sanctuary, and where the sick were supposed to be assuredly cured, and the dead even resuscitated.

Cogolludo, perhaps the greatest authority to be quoted today, supposes that Zamna was a cunning medicine man, mesmerist or conjuror, who had the apparent power of deceiving the people but he nevertheless was supposed to be endowed with virtues, and crowned with glory, a visible sign of his modest, meek and self denying character, he condescended to die like any other mortal, and descended to the sepulcher, bitterly lamented by his vassals and disciples, who caused one of the most gigantic tombs to be found on the peninsula, to be erected over him, but where this tomb is we have no means of learning. The government of the place, in ancient times, was absolutely theocratic, the pagan priests holding secular and sacred appointments at one and the same time.

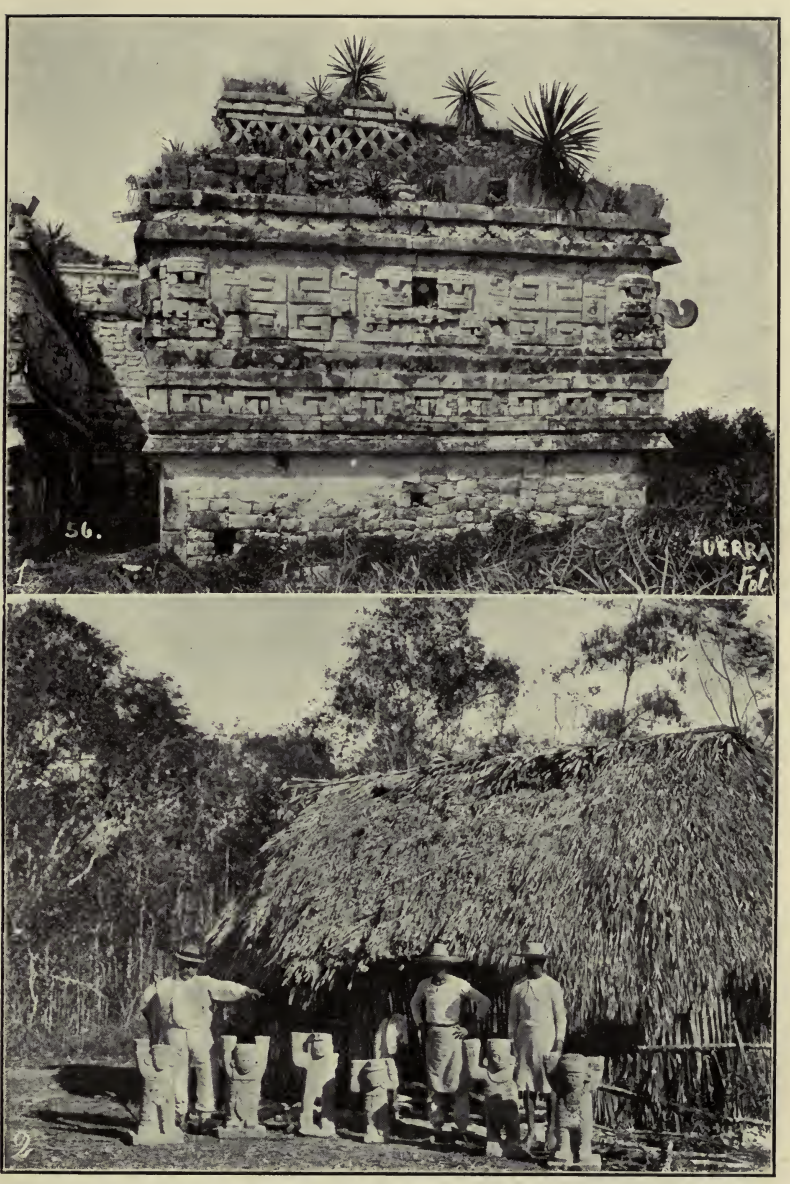
But how the mighty have fallen, to gain access to this hill now, it is necessary to go through a store, then a garden, and eventually a fowl house, and when arrival is effected, the hill that once held such importance in history, is found to be only an ordinary mound about twenty feet high.

Another temple, erected on another mound was called Kabul, which was famed for its colossal adornments in stucco, among which, three gigantic heads were dis-

covered, but now no longer exist, all owing to flagrant vandalism having been wantonly destroyed. Not only are foreigners too frequently responsible for this destruction, but the very natives living near their respective ruins, not having been educated to the interest possessed by the relics, frequently lose no opportunity of giving projecting or particularly noticeable objects a slash with their machete, or with dexterous aim throwing a stone with fatal results. But it is now to be hoped that, even at this eleventh hour, the debris may be cleared away, the rank growth of trees, shrubs and plants, to be found at nearly every group of ruins cut down, when possibly archaeological treasures may still be found, which will richly reward the authorities for the efforts they are now beginning to make, and encourage them to put aside large appropriations for the purpose. With reference to the stucco heads, above alluded to, the dimensions of the same were, we are led to believe, seven feet eight inches in height, and seven feet in width, they were supposed to have been objects of idolatry, a stone one foot six inches long protruded from under the chins, intended perhaps as a sort of bracket or altar upon which to burn incense, or to place an offering. this little shelf was unique, a similar one not being known to exist in Yucatan, although such additions are frequently to be seen in India and elsewhere. The enormous dimensions of the head, and the corresponding proportions of the mound, gave an unusual impression of grandeur to the place.

Another temple, before alluded to, erected on another mound, was dedicated to Canichkakmó, a sister of King Chac-mool of Chichen Itza, whose face, as the name indicates, was the image of the sun, with emitted rays.

Still another temple on another mound, was erected and dedicated to Zamna whose body, it is said, was, on his death, divided into three parts, the heart being buried in the temple of Itamatul, the right



CHICHEN ITZA.

1. Façade of so-called church.
2. Atlantean figures.

hand in that of Kabul, and the head in the temple of Kanichkakmó.

Itzimna or Zamna, is the first person mentioned in the annals of the Peninsula of Yucatan, the hero apotheosised, and, a great leader of the first Itza invasion, besides being the oldest divinity in the traditions of the Nahuatl race.

The most ancient traditions seem to point to three distinct immigrations into the Peninsula of Yucatan, but it is usually conceded that in that portion of Central America, where Yucatan, Guatemala and Southern Mexico come together, a great and potent theocratic empire existed. This was is ages past, successive immigrations from the North and from the South have swept over it, until all distinctive race individuality of the people who lived there, has been obliterated. The capital city of the Empire was Xibalba, thought to be the Palenque (in Chiapas) of the present day, which takes its present name from an insignificant little village situated near it, but we know that the neighbourhood of the ruins was called Nacham by the aborigines. The tribes coming from the North, the Nahuatls, built another city which they called Tula or Tulha, near the present town of Ocosingo in Chiapas, and if we place credence in that perhaps, mythical sacred book of the Quiches, called the Ah-Tza, the Itzaes (Ahtzaes) present inhabitants of Peten, (in the Northern part of the Republic of Guatemala), are lineal descendents of the dwellers of Xibalba.

Although traces of three distinct immigrations into Yucatan are evident, the Itzaes, the Mayas and the Caribs, yet they all spoke one tongue, the Maya, at the coming of the Spaniards. The Itzaes founded the cities on the Northern portion of the Peninsula, one of which was Itzamal, the second was Chichen Itzá to both of which allusions are made in other articles, and a third T'ho or Merida, referred to elsewhere in these pages.

History says "In the centre of region of waters"(no trace of water exists now, how can this be explained? this should be reconciled, as so much depends upon it) they built a city called Itzamal, where they established the worship of Zama, consisting of the offering of flowers and fruits."

To this religious centre flocked pilgrims by thousands.

On the mound to the South of the plaza, that was formerly called Papolchac, which is supposed to have derived its name from being the abode of the priests who ministered to the gods, those divines who lived there, in straw huts, at the time; is erected the church of the order of Franciscans, and dedicated to Saint Anthony of Pavia, together with various other buildings connected with the mission. The especial site was chosen, in preference to all others, by Bishop Landa, when in 1549, he was elected guardian of the already existing convent, and commissioned to erect the other buildings of mentioned in order that the place, in which the priests ministering to the idol lived, and which had been the scene of abomination and idolatry, might become sanctified by the ministers of the true God, where sacrifices and adoration should be offered, and thereby drive away the devil by the divine presence of Christ sacrificed. It is all a very happy conception, the church and convent occupying the site of the former pagan temple and standing on an elevation, giving such a character to the place, and nothing similar is to be found in any other part of Yucatan.

Two sloping ascents of original design lead up to a platform on which the church is built, two hundred feet square, on three sides of which is a noble promenade or colonnade, overlooking the city and surrounding country, and from which a very extensive view can be obtained.

We give an illustration of the above, not only showing the position of the ancient church edifices, and colonnades, but also the enterprising spirit of modern

advertising, for which it is well known no place is considered too sacred.

At the present day, Izamal is distinguished throughout Yucatan not only for its annual fair, which is held in December, but for the strong hold it has upon the feelings of the Indians, in the sanctity of its Virgin, thereby preserving its importance, although under vastly different conditions.

From the History of the Proceedings of the Monks, it appears that the Indians did not evince any desire of discontinuing to worship El Demonio or his satanic majesty and in its place heartily embracing the Roman Catholic faith; their pertinacity greatly exercised the venerable padre Landa, who after wrestling with the arch enemy, proposed to some of the citizens that if they would subscribe the necessary amount, he would go personally to Guatemala, and procure an Image of the Virgin, as there was a celebrated and skilful sculptor in that place. Simultaneously he was deputed to get another Virgin for a convent in Merida, so an order for both was given at the same time. They were finished and despatched from Guatemala, the two images in the same box, and marvellous to relate, although they had heavy rain on the road, not a drop fell upon Indians who were carrying it.

At Merida, the monks had their pick of the contents of the box, and chose the image that possessed the most beautiful and beatified countenance, while the other was carried on toward its destination.

We are told that the Spaniards of Valladolid, a city in the Eastern part of the State, considered the image much too elegant for an Indian community, and thinking it an excellent opportunity of getting a beautiful Virgin under favourable circumstances, they offered a good price for it, but those who had subscribed, bought and paid for it, refused all overtures with respect to parting with it, the Spaniards were pertinacious and tried forcibly to carry their purpose of acquirement into

execution, but the box suddenly became so heavy, that it could not be moved. The Spaniards then retired, feeling convinced after such a practical illustration, that the Image was destined to remain there.

The devotion of the faithful increased at the sight of this marvel, and in all parts, by land or sea, innumerable miracles have been wrought by means of invoking this Virgin, even to the present day perfect belief exists in the marvellous power, and the Image is often in demand in consequence. It has frequently made excursions to places where assistance was required, the ability to work miracles remains, as it always has been, unquestioned.

The following historical incident, applying to the Virgin of Izamal, will no doubt be read with interest:–

In the year 1648, Yucatan was visited by a terrible plague, which caused great havoc throughout the State. The Municipal Board, or Board of Aldermen, of Merida, met in council to consider what remedy could be devised or adopted to ameliorate the situation. One would suppose, from our point of view, says the historian, that some higienic measures would be suggested and taken, but no, without a dissenting vote, it was unanimously agreed that the Virgin of Izamal should be brought to Merida, many believing implicitly that by that procedure, it would naturally follow that the plague would disappear, or become less virulent in its action, so the authority of the church dignatories was obtained, and a high official of the government was commisioned to leave the city, to go and receive with due solemnity, the Image of Izamal, and bring her to the Capital City of the State.

When the said official received his orders to proceed on his important mission, he had just been attacked by the plague, but having to obey his instructions, he had no alternative but to go, and becoming too ill to walk or ride, he had to be carried on the backs of men. On the road he began to feel better, and by the time

CHICHEN ITZA.

1. Sacred zenote.

2. The sacred well.

he reached his destination, he had quite recovered his usual health and vigour.

But when he was congratulating himself upon his reinstatement to health, a new complication in another direction was encountered, all the district of Izamal was greatly excited at the idea of losing their precious image, even for a day, but at last, the earnest pleading, together with the urgent necessity of the measure appearing so forcibly to all, they at last acceded to it leaving them temporarily, but humbly begged that it would be returned to them in seventeen days at the latest, that was allowing four days in transit each way, and nine days to remain in Merida.

Upon this being faithfully promised, the Virgin was taken from her pedestal in the temple, and conducted in procession to Merida, the Municipality in a body, received it with proper solemnity, and some of the chapter took off their shoes in the presence, as a marked sign of respect and obeisance. The Virgin was then carried through the principal streets, an enormous crowd accompanying it praying, and the church bells were rung; on the image passing houses in which there happened to be an inflicted inmate, the sick person was taken to the door or window, under the unwavering belief that a contemplative glance of the Virgin would be quite sufficient to effect a cure, they clamoured for their trouble to be taken from them and their health restored. On the Virgin passing the public prison, the doors were thrown open, and the incarcerated prisoners, absolutely oblivious of their crimes, allowed to leave, such move being considered a good one to appease Divine anger. The Virgin after making the rounds of the City, was then conducted to, and left at the San Francisco Convent, where she remained nine days, during which time she was perpetually visited by crowds who humbly presented her with gold, silver and precious stones. The Image was then returned to Izamal, safe and sound, to the great joy and sa-

tisfaction of the people, who came out in their entirety to receive it.

The historian priest Cogolludo states that a volume might have been written on the subject of the many miracles performed by the Virgin of Izamal, no room for doubt on the subject can possibly exist, as many more miracles like unto the above are extant, if only due care had been observed, but alas and alack, although the Virgin could save others, she could not save herself, for we learn, that on the left hand side of the principal door of the church is a square stone let into the wall, forming a tablet, upon which is an inscription, announcing the sad information:-"That in the great and memorable fire in which the church was burned, the Holy Virgin was entirely consumed." But the hearts of the faithful are cheered by the assurance, that another Virgin, quite as powerful as the original, has been procured, and put in her place.

KABAH.

The interesting ruins found at this place, is in reality, only one of a collection, consisting of several distinct groups to be explored in the vicinity, this excursion applying also to the important and well known districts of Uxmal and Labna, besides fifteen others possessing more or less interest, all not only being accessible by the same lines of railway, but within 30 kilometres, or say 19 miles of a given point, such as Ticul, a town of some six thousand inhabitants, with Stations on both the Peto and the Ticul Branches of the United Railways of Yucatan, about 75 kilometres, or 47 miles from Merida, where you can make a temporary residence, and take side trips to one or all the groups as your fancy dictates, all have some especial merit, so a great deal can be done among the "paredes viejas" or old walls, as they are irreverently

termed by the unappreciative indian, before returning to Merida.

But as may be naturally expected, all these side trips are more expensive at the present time, than when sufficient patronage will enable enterprising caterers to consider it worth their while to open hotels in the vicinity of the various groups of ruins, for the reason that such establishments not yet existing, it is obligatory to take a cook and edibles, (both of a solid and fluid character) with you, besides you should not forget your hammock and mosquito net, which presumably you have acquired by this time, as the same are not only valuable adjuncts now, but will serve as interesting momentos of the trip in years to come.

The best Market for hammocks, is in Merida, where a very large choice can be had, ranging in price, from five dollars to fifty, or even more.

All the above arrangements having been attended to, besides obtaining the necessary permits to view each of the respective ruins, (procurable at the residence of Sr. don Andres Solis Camara, Nº 553 Calle 59, Merida), drive to the Mejorada Railway Station, and take the 3.30 p. m. train to Ticul, or to the Peto Railway Station, on 50th Street, from where two afternoon trains go to Ticul, leaving Merida, at 3.30, and 6.30, but in all cases, see the current Time Tables, as of course the hours of departure are susceptible of change.

As may be seen by the skeleton map in connection with the various ruins, Ticul lies adjacent to a great many, the principal ones are alluded to in detail in the text, but some have almost passed beyond the pale of human interest, and exist in name only.

Presuming you have made arrangements for a short sojourn in Ticul, we turn our attention to visiting Kabah, so after having passed the night, and taken breakfast, a ride of seven leagues will take you to the ruins, but if you have a torpid liver, a volan drive instead would be found an admirable specific.

Relative to this important group of ruins, it seems incomprehensible that no native writer alludes to Kabah, but as usual Stephens comes to our rescue with his valuable assistance.

The general apathy exhibited by Yucatecans relative to their archaeological treasures is surprising, but in no instance is it so pronounced as in the case of Kabah, many people who should know, never having heard of the place, besides the extraordinary ignorance of all the people, white or indian, in regard to the immediate neighbourhood is deplorable, and can hardly be conceived, many going so far as to presume to say, when asked, that no such place exists in Yucatan. The information that we did eventually manage to elicit was as a rule so confused, that we have been unable to form to our own satisfaction an absolutely correct idea of the extent of the ruins in question, as we feel convinced that the abundant tropical growth covers many treasures the existence of which is still unknown.

After leaving Ticul, and proceeding along the camino real, or public road, West to Santa Elena, about ten miles, and from there going South for five miles, we find ourselves in the vicinity of the ruins, on both sides of the road, which although being quite close are completely hidden by the density of the woods.

Taking the first turning to the left, and going about 300 yards, the principal object that calls our attention, is the teocalli or pyramid, which rises 80 feet, and is 180 feet square at the base, at the foot of the same is a range of ruins. The steps that were originally on the pyramid have all fallen, and the sides present a surface of loose stones difficult to climb, except on one side where the ascent is rendered practicable by the aid of trees that have taken root where the steps used to be. A grand view is to be had from the top, and the only indication that we are in the vicinity of man, was a ranch, but which by this time, has naturally disappeared. Other remains are to be seen

1. KABAHANCAN. Now known as Kabah.

2. KABAH. Triumphal arch.

in different places, all in a ruinous condition, with the exception of the relics of a solitary arch, which originally measured 14 feet in the opening, but the crown has fallen in, all is in the same style of architecture with the rest of the surrounding buildings, the arch stands on a ruined mound, alone in its departed glory, no document exists to tell for what purpose it was erected, and no person in the neighbourhood can give a word of explanation. Stephens pathetically adds, "Darkness rests upon its history, but in the desolation and solitude among the surrounding ruins, it stood like a proud memorial of triumph. Perhaps like the arch of Titus, which at this day spans the sacred way at Rome, it was erected to commemorate a victory over enemies."

Satiated with the panoramic view, we descend, and on reaching the base again and following the path through the milpa (cultivated patch) for about 350 paces, we reach the foot of a terrace 20 feet in height, the edge of which is overgrown with trees, this we ascend, and gain the platform, which measures 200 by 142 feet. Facing us is the building marked on the map, as the 1st House, on the right of the platform, as we approach the building. is a high range of structures, ruined and overgrown with trees, with an immense back wall, built on the outer line of the platform. On the left is another range of ruined buildings but not so grand as those on the right, and in the centre of the platform is a stone enclosure 27 feet square, and 7 feet high, the object of which cannot be imagined, a layer of stones round the base is sculptured, and contains a continuous line of hieroglyphics.

In the centre of the platform is also a range of twenty stone steps, 42 feet wide, which leads to an upper terrace, on which stands the building 151 feet in front, notable for the extraordinary richness and ornamentation of its façade, and differing in its character from other ruins, being ornamented all the way up from its

foundation, and not partially, as is to be observed elsewhere.

It is to be regretted that nearly all this beautiful façade has fallen, but still an idea can be formed of the gorgeous decoration as it must have appeared a century ago.

The ornaments are of a complicated and incomprehensible character, similar to those of Uxmal, and from the fact that every part of the facade was ornamented with sculpture, the whole must have presented a greater appearance of richness than so far has been found at any other place. The cornice calls for attention, especially that running over the doorways, which was so beautiful, that it would have embellished the architecture of any known era, and be worthy of the acceptance of a polished people.

Attention has already been called to wooden lintels, here again that feature was also found, with the same dire results effected by time.

On the top is a structure which at a distance, appears like an upper story, no provision had apparently been made to reach it, but an ascent was eventually effected with difficulty by careful climbing, the structure was found to be 15 feet high, and four feet thick, running the entire length of the edifice, but only over the back wall of the front range of apartments, While stucco predominated at Palenque, here cut stone of a chaste and simple character was found in profusion on all sides, but notwithstanding the wealth of the adornments, no particular use can possibly be suggested for the upper appendage, no other idea can be imagined than that the elevation was only intended to increase the ornamental effect.

But in the body of the building, the interior consists of two parallel chambers both being 27 feet long, and 10 feet 6 inches wide more or less, communicating by a door in the centre The inner room is raised 2 feet and 8 inches above the other, and communication bet-

ween them is effected by two steps, cut out of a single block of stone, the lower step being in the form of a pretty scroll. The ends of the steps are ornamented with sculpture, as also is the wall under the doorway. The whole design is graceful and pretty the general effect being remarkably good.

An illustration given by Stephens shows only one doorway on each side of the centre, the two ends of the front wall having fallen. On both sides of this centre doorway, were two other openings into apartments, each of which contains two chambers, the back one which is raised, although there are no steps, and the only ornamentation is a row of small pilasters, about two feet high under the door, and running the whole length of the room.

At the rear, and under the same roof, were two ranges of apartments, of the same dimensions as those just described, and having a rectangular open space in front.

It was extremely difficult to make out the original plan of the building, from the fact of it being in such a ruinous state, both end walls, together with the whole of the other facade, and the roof, having all fallen, but presumably the entire edifice formed nearly a square, one peculiarity was that the centre wall was nearly as thick as one of the corridors, the collection of sculptured stone, lavishly ornamented, that was lying about in all directions, called for particular attention.

The whole of the terrace on one side, is overgrown with trees, some of which have taken root, and are growing out from the interior of the chambers.

A tree called the Alamo or Elm, the leaves of which form an excellent fodder for animals, takes root very easily, and is now hurrying the ruins, not only of this place, but in all parts where such exist in Yucatan, to destruction, and unhappily no appropriation has been made so far by the Government, for the purpose of cutting them down. The rankness of tropical vegetation

is astounding, and even when cut down rapidly grows again, unless the roots are destroyed. In the Gran Hotel, in Merida, where the writer is typing these words, he has before him, the Jesuit Church, on the towers of which, a growth is appearing, rapidly acquiring size, apathy seems to be a local characteristic, besides a total disgregard to the fatal consequences, that half an hours work could eradicate

But to return to Kabah, and before leaving the First House. it should be observed, that there are many more remains in this vicinity, but they are in such an advanced stage of dilapidation, as to render their description difficult, and even then could not afford the slightest possible interest. One building, called by the natives the Cocina or Kitchen, stood here about sixty years ago, but has succumbed to the abnormal growth of plants, whose roots have such irresistible power of unsetting and overturning walls, and where stones are locked in their strong pernicious embrace.

On the left of the mound supporting the Ist House, was a stair-case, leading down to the court-yard of the 2nd House, and on the right was a grand majestic pile of buildings having no name assigned to it, and which, perhaps when entire, was the most imposing structure at Kabak. It measured at the base 147 feet on one side, and 106 feet on the other, and consisted of three stories, the second smaller than the first, and the third smaller than the second, having on each side a broad platform in front. Along the base of all four of the sides, was a continuous range of apartments, with the doorways supported by pillars, and on the side fronting the rear of No 1 House, was another new and interesting feature. This was a gigantic stone stair-case, rising to the roof, on which roof stood a second range of apartments. This stair-case was not a solid mass, resting against the wall of the mound, but was supported by the half of a triangular arch, springing from the ground, and resting against the wall, so as to leave a passage

CHICHEN ITZA.

1. East Façade, upper structure of Nunnery.
2. Façade of the Nunnery.

under the staircase, This stair-case was interesting, not only from its own grandeur, and the novelty of its construction, but as explaining what had been unintelligible in regard to the principal staircase in the House of the Dwarf ar Uxmal. The steps of this stair-case have nearly all fallen, and the ascent is made by a sort of inclined plane The buildings on the top are ruined, and many or the door-ways so encumbered, that there was barely room to crawl into them. The door-ways of the ranges on the North side of this mound, opened into the area of the 2nd House, the platform of which area is 170 feet long, 110 feet broad, and raised 10 feet from the ground. In the front of the building is the picote or great stone, invariably found in all court-yards and areas. The edifice stands upon an upper terrace, forming a breast-work for the same, and running the whole length, 164 feet, is a range of apartments with their doors opening upon the area. The front wall and the roof of this range, have nearly all fallen.

A ruined stair-case rises from the centre of the platform to the roof of this range, which forms the platform in front of the principal building. This stair-case like the last mentioned, is supported by the half of a triangular arch, precisely like the other already mentioned. The whole front was ornamented with sculpture, and the best preserved ornaments were over the door-way of the centre department.

The principal building has pillars in two of its door-ways, the first time pillars have been found to be used legitimately as supports, they were only 6 feet in height, and had rough and unfinished square blocks of stone, to serve as capitals and bases. They lacked grandeur, but were nevertheless well proportioned, and adapted to the lowness of the building. It will be noticed that the lintels over the doors here, are of stone.

About 350 yards to the North East of the 2nd "House, we reach the 3rd House, which the Indians call the "Casa de Justicia," or Hall of Justice, it is 113 feet in

length, and contains five apartments, each 20 feet long, and 9 feet wide, all perfectly plain, it will be observed that the walls were of the uniform thickness, of 2 feet 2 inches, an idea can be formed of the massive character of the construction, this being a fair average, but notwithstanding, nearly all yielded to the insidious working of the roots of trees. With the exception of the pillars in the wall, between the door-ways, all the front is severely plain.

Besides those described, there are many other remains, but they being so far advanced in ruin and dilapidation, no interest can be found in them.

For all intents and purposes, the above notes comprise all that can be offered, with respect to the ruins to be found on the East side of the Main Road, and it is with considerable regret, that we cannot even say so much about those marked on the map, as located on the West of the same.

No idea of the existence of buildings can be had from the ground level of the road, the location of those to the West, having come to our knowledge, by being seen from the top of the teocalli, before alluded to, but on arrival at them, only the tottering skeletons of structures, that had once been grander than any we have just seen, appeared before us.

About 250 paces from the Main Road, two small sparsely ornamented buildings, standing at right angles to one another are found, in the patio or open, in front of them was to be seen an orifice, like the mouth of a cave. When Stephens visited them in 1843, no person, not even those living in the immediate neighbourhood, knew of the existence of any more ruins in the locality, but the possibility of others were suggested to him from the elevated view just referred to. Proceeding in a Westerly direction, through dense woods, and passing a small ruined building, with a stair-case leading to the roof, a great terrace about 800 feet in length, and 100

feet wide, is reached. This terrace was thickly covered with trees, and numerous Agaves Americanas or the Maguey plant.

Upon this terrace, stood two buildings, one of which was 217 feet long, and had seven door-ways in front, all opening into single rooms, except the centre one which has two chambers, each 30 feet long. In the rear were other apartments, with doorways opening upon a courtyard, and from the centre, a range of buildings ran at right angles, and which terminated in a ruined mound. The whole wall of this great pile, is greatly dilapidated, but bore signs of having been, with one exception, more ornamented than other buildings in the immediate vicinity. The door-ways had wooden lintels, which have all collapsed.

Another building having a length of 142 feet, with a depth of 31 feet, lies to the North of the last described, and has double communicating corridors, with a gigantic staircase in the centre, leading to the roof, where the remains of another story were found. The doors of the two centre apartments open under the arch of this great staircase.

Strange to say, in this instance although the lintels over the doorways were of wood, all in 1843 were mostly sound and solid, and still retained their original positions intact. The doorways were almost impassible, being encumbered with rubbish. A sculptured lintel 10 feet in length was found, which possessed much more merit in itself, than all the others put together, the sculpture represented an imperfect face, with a headdress composed of a plume of feathers, and the general character of the figure and ornamentation was typical of the famed stucco decoration to be found at Palenque. The lintel, composed of three longitudinal pieces, was in excellent preservation, with the lines clear and distinctly cut, the work in all respects showing great skill and proficiency in the art of wood carving. The three pieces were considered the most perfect and interest-

ing specimens that the country afforded and were consequently carefully packed, and sent away eventually reaching the United States, but after experiencing considerable difficulty in transit, it is mortifying to have to record, that this rare specimen was subsequently burned in a conflagration. It is presumed that the fine carving was executed with tools made of copper alloyed with tin, several such having been found, but the process adopted for tempering was lost, and became unknown to future generations. Stephens carried away this lintel, and tells of the great havoc that was unavoidably occasioned in getting it out of the wall from which it was taken, he also states that the wall was 4 feet thick, and the necessary opening weakened it so much, that it was dangerous to stand near it, small trees were cut down to serve as battering rams, and eventually an immense breach was made. This unfortunately is far from being the only piece of vandalism we read of, history tells of several, and which are mentioned in rather a boasting spirit. Another instance was so flagrant, that an Englishman, I regret to say, who systematically worked Yucatan, was requested to leave the country, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this, but so at least, it is openly stated here. So not only have the ruins had to encounter the ravages of time, assisted by ignorant and unappreciative natives, but also by educated and intelligent foreigners, from whom, better treatment of the relics, would have been expected, taking what they could lay their hands on without destruction, is to be expected when opportunity offers, but to help to destroy, is very different, and unjustifiable.

This brings our very weak description of Kabah, to an end, for although there are many more remains, that we know of, no allusion need be made to them, as they are in such an advanced state of dilapidation, as to be entirely void of all possible interest, but Stephens adds, in his remarks on the matter, that doubtless more remains, so far unknown to living man, lie not only

KEVIC. Façade of palace.

buried but clearly to be seen in the adjacent woods, ample encouragement is offered for further investigation to be made, when it is more than probable some rich and interesting finds would be the result. To the indomitable perseverance of Stephens alone must the discovery of these ruins be freely given, as no document can be found, that makes the slightest allusion to them, he was the first to throw open the portals of the grave, and present them in a meagre manner to the world, sickness alone prevented him carrying his researches and investigations to an exhaustive finish, he naturally but at the same time, pathetically adds, as the preceding paragraphs will confirm, that the clouds that hang over these especial ruins, are darker than those met elsewhere.

A notable fact exists, that although the discovery of these ruins, gives foreigners such particular pleasure, still the event did not create the slightest sensation in the immediate neighbourhood, and even to-day, many educated and intelligent natives in Merida, have never heard of them, and those that have been informed of the interesting and magnificent find, remain perfectly indifferent. In this connection, it should be added, that it is greatly to be lamented, that no private or public expedition has been formed, to verify Stephen's remarks, or to take up the subject so reluctantly relinquished by him.

The village of Nocacab, close to where the above mentioned ruins exist, should not be left, until an inspection of the little church is made, some gruesome, but nevertheless interesting details would appeal to the sensibilities of the average tourist.

KEWICK.

Lying half way between Tecax (a station on the Peto branch railway, one hundred and six kilometres from Merida,) and Bolonchen, and about twenty kilometres from the former, are found ruins, which have suffered more, strange to say, than any other group. The object that calls for the greatest attention here, is a doorway, with a few feet of masonry on either side of it, and which was all that remained of a beautiful long façade. The doorway is remarkable for its simplicity, and at the same time, its grandeur of proportions, it gave entrance into a room, which called for no particular attention it is roofed with the general typical Maya arch, but in this room used to be a mural painting, on a selected stone, the painting excited Stephen's cupidity and it was determined to take it bodily to Washington, and after causing a terrible amount of havoc in its removal, it was found to be too cumbersome, so it was left in a neighbouring ranch, where it may still remain, for all any one knows or seems to care.

Close to, and at right angles to the above described building, is another which measures two hundred and thirty feet in length in the centre of which is a staircase in a terribly ruined condition Fallen buildings and fragments of sculptured stone, strew the ground in every direction, Probably no white man had ever seen these ruins before Stephens and subsequently no person has made any allusion to them.

KUEPAK.

Kuepak lies about five kilometres to the South East of Uxmal, and about the same distance South of Nocacab, ruins are said to be here, in fact they could be seen from a distance, but they seemed so difficult of

access, that no attempt was made to inspect them, they form one of a large nest of groups, so close together, as to lead one to suppose that they were all parts of an important centre.

LABNÁ.

The tourist cannot be too often reminded, that to save all unpleasantness, which is only too easy to arise, it is absolutely necessary before leaving Merida, to call upon Señor Don Andres Solis Camara, who is in charge of all the ruins of Yucatan, whose residence is at Nº 553, 59th Street, and from whom the necessary permits to view each group of ruins must be obtained, the especial groups you desire to see must be mentioned, when a separate permit for each place will be promptly issued.

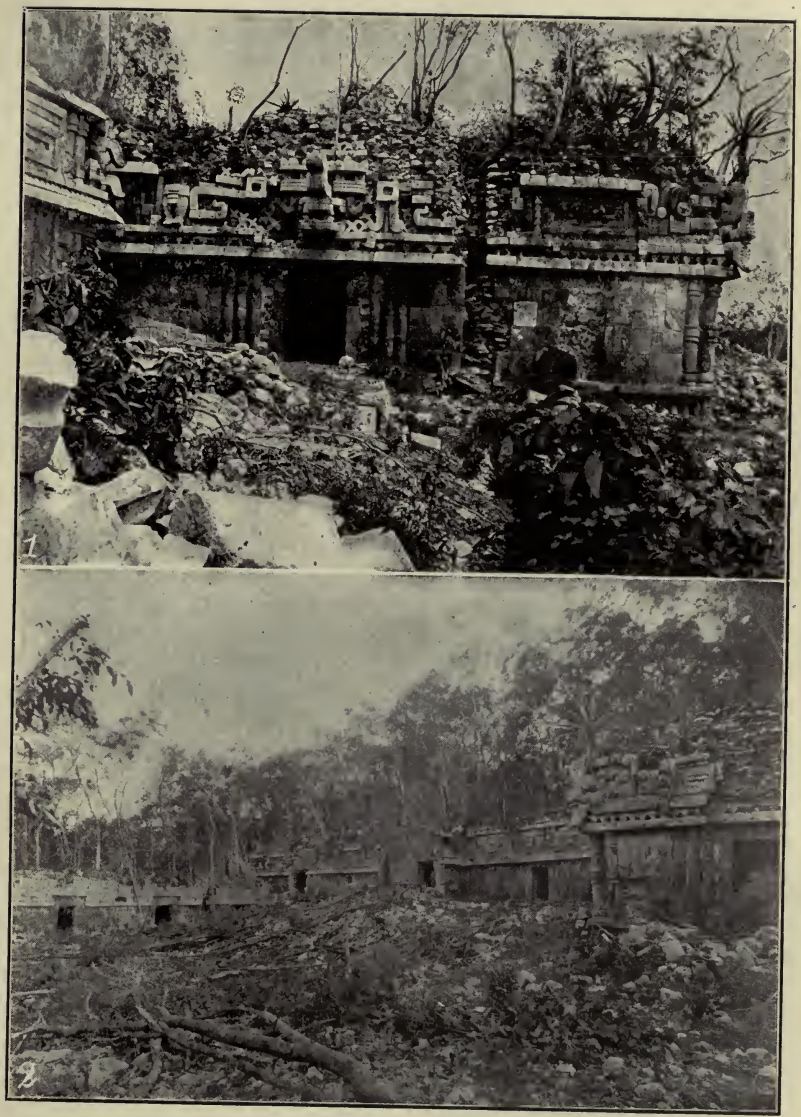
Many items of information given in the article on Kabah, must apply to Labná also in almost all particulars, with the exception of getting to the ruins of that particular and interesting district, as they do not lie in the same direction.

By a glance at the skeleton map, the position of the ruins will be found located, but as to the way of getting to them, you will be able to judge what will be the better and more convenient course to take in each and all instances, and not to depend altogether upon the opinion of local would-be-wise-ones, as their lack of knowledge in the premises is proverbial, it must be remembered that this remark does not apply to any particular place, but to all in general.

But with reference to, and applying directly to Labná, there are different ways of reaching it, which may be interesting to know. First, sleeping at and

going direct from Ticul to the ruins, a distance of seven leagues, which is any where between seventeen and a half and twenty miles. Secondly, going on, on the same evening you arrive at Ticul, as far as Tabi, to which place you can go comfortably, by carriage, the distance being only a matter of four leagues or so, besides sleeping accommodation and food can be obtained there, but in this and in all instances do'nt forget to take your hammock. The ruins can be inspected in a couple of hours. There is a tienda or shop at Tabi, where a fair selection of edibles can be obtained. The third route, is by going on to one station further than Ticul, by the Peto Railway, Oxkutzcab by name, a town of over three thousand inhabitants, where horses can be obtained to take you to the ruins, about four hours ride, but arrangements for transportation had better be made before hand, and not on the actual day it would be required. The origin of this peculiar name, which has, a decidedly caucasian ring about it, is in Maya, derived from Ramon (the branches of a tree suitable for cattle feed) Tobacco and Honey, decidedly a strange combination. Here, directly opposite the railway station, there is a tienda or village shop, where food can be obtained and also a place to sleep, but every thing here might be cleaner, Don Enrique Valle Hernandez's carriage and horses are available for hire, and for which, the return trip to the ruins, inclusive for food for the animals, driver included, is $ 12.00 silver, (on which basis, it must be remembered, quotations are always made, in this sketch), but without food, $ 9.00. A horse for the same work, attended by a runner, would cost $ 8 for the return trip. The fare from Merida to Oxkutzcab is $ 2.75, by rail.

The result of our researches, clearly shows that prior to the year 1843 nothing was known about this beautiful collection of ruins, the inhabitants of the nearest village having no idea of their existence, no native authority makes any allusion to them, nor can



LABNA.

1. Façade of principal palace.
2. The principal palace.

any light from any possible local source be thrown upon the group. The only writer who mentions them, is their actual discoverer, Mr. John L. Stephens, and it is safe to say that if he had not done so they would still remain hidden and unknown, an infinity of reasons justifies this supposition. We have no hesitation in saying that we have drawn very freely from Mr. Stephen's graphic description, in making the following notes, but notwithstanding in the absence of more data, our information is consequently, in our opinion at least, lamentably meagre.

The sentence of irretrievable ruin has gone forth against these proud memorials of a mysterious people, of whom the most extravagant high opinion is warranted, and on seeing the terrible way in which time has dealt with the ruins, mingled feelings of pain and pleasure, are experienced; on the one side, that they had not been discovered when some means might have been taken to protect them from the ravages caused by prolific tropical growth before it was too late; and on the other hand, that what little has been left has been encountered even at the eleventh hour, so that it has been possible for views to be taken of them, serving to make them become more widely known, and thereby enabling them to pass into record as beautiful examples of what did exist, once upon a time.

An illustration we have seen, in connection with the first ruins to be met, represents a mound 45 feet high, on which was built a very curious, in fact an extraordinary structure, that in its original form measured 43 feet in front by 20 feet in depth, it had then three doorways, but one of which has since fallen, carrying with it eight feet of the whole façade. The centre doorway gives access into two chambers, each 20 feet long by only 6 feet broad. Trees were growing where steps formerly existed, and in the absence of which steps, greatly assisted in the ascent and descent of the mound, but now that those trees have recently

been cut down, the necessary climbing has become extremely difficult.

Above the cornice of the building, rises a gigantic perpendicular wall, to the height of 30 feet, once ornamented from top to bottom, and from one side to the other with colossal figures and other designs in stucco, now broken and in fragments but still presenting a remarkable and unique appearance such as is safe to say the art of no other people ever produced. Along the top, standing out on the wall, was a row of death's heads, underneath were two lines of human figures in atlo relief, of which scattered arms and legs only now remain. The grouping of the same, as far as it could be made out, showed considerable proficiency in the art of original designing, and without a vestige of precedent to follow. Over the centre doorway constituting the principal ornament of the wall, was a colossal figure in a sitting position, of which, only a tippet and girdle besides a few detached portions have been preserved. Conspicuous over this principal figure was a large ball, with a human figure standing up beside it, touching it with his hands, while belo wit was another figure with one knee on the ground and one arm extended in an upright position, as if in the effort of supporting the ball, or in apprehension of it falling upon them.

It is not without considerable regret, that the above is described in the past tense instead of in the present, but the signs are so pronounced that no doubt can possibly exist, that in a year or two the remaining parts will have fallen, the wall was in our time tottering and ready to collapse, one portion had already come down, and what remained was cracked, and the fissure, more than a foot wide ran all the way to the top, its doom was sealed, human power could not save it, but as it was seen even then in its ruins, it gave a grand idea of the scenes of so called, but questionable barbaric magnificence which this country must have presented when all her cities were entire and before decay

set in. The figures and ornaments on this wall, were painted, the remains of bright colours were still to be seen, as if defying the power or action of the elements.

A few hundred feet from the above structure, but in full sight at the same time, was a beautiful arch, having a ten feet span, it was remarkable for its beauty of proportions and graceful ornamentation. but on passing through the same, we also pass from the sublime to the ridiculous, for in the original Court yard, is now found a heavy extraneous growth of trees and shrubbery, besides having a patch planted with corn. Here also is to be seen a long dilapidated building, running off at an angle of 30°, and forming an angle with another building. In the same was to be seen a richly ornamented doorway, the equal of which was not to be found in any other part of this region.

But opening upon the above mentioned court yard, are the door-ways leading into the apartments on both sides of the arch, and Laureano Coyi, an appointee of the Federal Government, at present in charge of these ruins, has taken several of these rooms to serve as a dwelling. When it is considered the astonishing grandeur that once was to be seen on this very spot, when, as the German traveller Norman so feelingly expresses himself in regard to the Yucatan ruins in general. "In these places only silence and admiration prevail, to speak would be profanity, because not even a revelation from above, would cause such a great impression in one's soul, as the feeling that comes over one, in the presence of these monstruous monuments, these holy sepulchres of a civilization lost in the immensities of the past, and which to-day are enveloped in the silence of the grave, and submerged in the lethargy of eternity."

We can perfectly well understand the eloquent language in which the penetrating genius of the german savant expresses his train of thought, and we are imbued with the same sentiments. Undoubtedly there is something doubly sacred in these ruins, something which

enslaves and subjugates one, but we who have been born under the burning light of the mid-day sun, find something more, something indescribable which cannot be expressed in any human tongue. Yes! we likewise have visited these ruins, which induced us to dream and meditate, we saw them in the morning amongst the banana and palm leaves glittering in the rising sun, and reflected in millions of dew drops, we admired them in the solemn repose of tropical mid-day, and we were spell bound before them, when with the cooling incandescence of the transfigurations of the dying sun, their awful outlines appeared among the trees, the shrubbery and undergrowth which in part encircle them. Then through the deserted porticoes, and the gap and openings, one discovers the passionate and fiery eyes of the puma, the mountain cat profaning the sacred places with its howls, and present to us the uncommon spectacle of the supreme ecstacies of life, blended with the ineffable mysteries of death.

With these words in our ears how are our other faculties outraged and in such perfect discord, our eyes to see the rooms which were formerly occupied by the illustrious dead now turned into a prosaic modern habitation for an ordinary watchman, watching what, watching what does no longer exist, for have we not said already, that Stephens made a boast that he had taken away all that was worth transporting, to a certain extent he was not to blame, he alone appeared to know the value of and have interest in what he abstracted, Then our olfactory senses are affected by some vile cooking or the smoke of the kitchen fire, why should these rooms be desecrated by other than sacrificial fires, and any smells except incense or other sweet smelling odors. When we recently applied the word barbaric, in a questionable sense, we certainly now, have no hesitation in using the term in its full acceptation, with reference to the rooms in question being used for their present incongruous purpose, would it not be better a thou-

sand times that the hard and ruthless hand of time should raze them to the ground, than that they should be profaned as they are. From our untutored point of view it seems bad taste to say the least of it.

Over a doorway, which measured 12 feet by 8 feet, was a square recess, in which were the remains of a rich ornament in stucco, with marks of green paint still visible, apparently representing the sun surrounded by its rays, probably once objects of adoration and worship but now wilfully destroyed.

The buildings around the area or court yard, formed a great irregular pile, about 200 feet in length.

About 150 yards to the North East, is a large building erected on a terrace, but hidden from view by the trees growing upon it, (we have just heard that this growth has been cleared away) the front is dilapitated, and few sculptured ornaments remain. Still further in the same direction, going through the woods, we reach a grand, and without extravagance, really magnificent building, it stands on a gigantic terrace, 400 feet long and 150 feet deep, the whole terrace is covered with buildings. The South front measures 282 feet in length, and consists of three distinct parts, differing in style, and presumably erected in different epochs.

The whole long facade was ornamented with sculptured stone, At the left end of the principal building, and in the angle formed by the corner, are the huge open jaws of an alligator, or some extinct hideous animal enveloping a human head.

Another building, consisting of single narrow corridors, had a facade of plain stone, it is to be found above the one just described.

The platform in front, forms the roof of the building underneath, and in this platform is a circular hole leading to a subterranean chamber 11 feet long, by 7 feet wide and 10 feet high in the centre of the arch forming the roof; the walls and ceiling were plastered,

and the floor is of cement, all in a good state of preservation.

At the foot of the terrace is a tree, growing out of an old well, now choked up with masses of fallen stone, it probably led to, or was a deposit of water, from which the ancient inhabitants procured their supply.

We conclude this interesting paper, by reminding the tourist to provide himself with his permit to see these ruins, the directions for obtaining the same, will be found under another heading, In this particular instance the above alluded to caretaker is scrupulously exacting, and insists upon presentation of the important paper before allowing a foot to be put on the grounds.

MANI

A town situated about ten kilometres to the North of Tekax, which latter is a Station on the Peto Railway one hundred and six kilometres from Merida, which clearly shows that it also was built on the site of an aboriginal city, but of which no history is extant, but Stephens adds forcibly, "although no chord of feeling is touched, the town rises above the rest, and compared with the profound obscurity or dim twilight in which othrs places are enveloped, its history is plainly written. Mani appears and holds a prominent place in history, in connection with Mayapan. The place is also mentioned in the legend relating to the House of the Dwarf, in the ruins of Uxmal.

XCHMOOL. The principal palace.

MAYAPAN,

The rancho of San Joachim, on which the ruins of Mayapan lie scattered, is about thirty miles South of Mérida, and forms part of a large hacienda named Xcanchacan, and at which place the Peto Railway has a Station, which by the time table we learn is forty seven kilometres from Mérida, we also observe that two trains run daily each way.

The ruins which were formerly surrounded by a strong wall, destroyed by time, cover a great plain, but which is so overgrown with thick vegetation that it is difficult to get through it.

At a short distance from the hacienda, although invisible until the very base is reached, on account of trees and undergrowth, is found a mound about 60 feet high and 100 feet square at the base, all artificially built up from the plain It should be added that although not visible on the level, a good view of it can be obtained from the towers of the Tecoh Church, a distance of about thirteen kilometres. The mound still retains its original symmetry and proportion, but is now practically a wooded hill. Four grand staircases, each 25 feet wide ascend to an esplanade within 6 feet of the top, this esplanade is 6 feet in width, and on each side is a smaller staircase leading to the top, these staircases are in a ruinous condition, the steps having almost entirely disappeared, climbing up being now effected by means of the trees growing out of the sides. The summit is a plain stone platform 15 feet square, and does not seem to bear evidence of ever having had a structure upon it. It is suggested that it was a great sacrificial mound, where the priests cut out the hearts of human victims in the presence of the multitude below. The view from the top intimated where other mounds could be found in the vicinity. Numerous sculptured stones are encountered scattered

round the base and also in the neighbouring woods, most of these blocks are square, with a carved face, and are generally supplied with stone dowels at their back, having without doubt been originally fixed in the wall, and formed part of some ornament in the facade. Besides these, there are other and more curious remains, among them are representations of human and animal figures, which the artist has embellished with hideous features and expressions. Many of the stones are buried or half buried in the ground, and some of the sculpture on them is of a rude character and time worn; A writer tritely remarks, that possibly many of these were originally objects of adoration and worship, but now exist as mute and melancholy memorials of ancient paganism.

Near the base of the mound, is an opening in the earth, the entrance to another of those extraordinary caves, alluded to elsewhere, it is called a Zenote, which are to be found in many places, and bear the same name, whether they are entirely open or subterranean. In this instance it is supposed to have been the source of the water supply of the ancient city.

The entrance is made by a broken yawning mouth, and so precipitous, as to require considerable care in making the descent before the water is reached, an extensive subterranean chamber with a very high roof, is encountered, from which chamber, passages branch off in many directions. Animal bones, and the remains of fires are found, evidencing the fact that refuge was obtained here, or possibly the place was once used as a human residence. An idol is found at the entrance of one of the passages. In many places the roof has caved in thereby choking up the passage, we were therefore inclined to think that under the circumstances, further investigation is hardly worth the candle, which it is necessary to take, to make the darkness visible, the temperature is terribly hot, particularly for those not accustomed to that of Yucatan. On arriving at the wa-

ter, it is found to be incrusted with a thin coating of sulphate of lime, which decomposes when brought in contact with the upper air.

Another mound in the vicinity, possesses a circular building, about 30 feet high, but the ravages of time has made it impossible to determine what form the mound itself originally had, the exterior of the building is of plain stone, 10 feet to the top of the lower cornice, and 14 to that of the upper one, the door faces the West, and over it is a stone lintel, The outer wall is 5 feet thick, and in the centre of the building is a cylindrical solid mass of stone 9 feet in diameter, thereby forming a passage way between it and the outer wall, this passage is 3 feet wide, and into which, the said door opens, but for what especial service the solid mass in the centre was designed, it is impossible to infer, the interior of the building is adorned with painting, the red, yellow, blue and white colouring being still distinctly visible.

No special purpose can be assigned either, for a double row of columns, without capitals, and standing about 8 feet apart, that are to be seen to the South West of the building, there are only 8 now standing, but it is very clear that there have been more, and which may possibly be found on clearing away the trees and undergrowth in the region.

Long ranges of mounds exist on the other side of the hacienda, which would no doubt, from an archaelogical point of view, be profitably unearthed.

On the arrival of the Spaniards, they found the country divided up into different governments, under various names, and having different rulers all the time hostile to one another, but the whole land of the Mayas was originally united under one head or supreme lord. This great potentate had for the seat of his monarchy, a very populous city called Mayapan, styled by early Spanish writers, "el pendon de los Mayas," or the banner city of the Mayas; and had under him, ma-

ny other lords and caciques, who were bound to pay him tribute of various descriptions, such as cotton cloth, fowls, cocoa, and gum or resin for incense; to serve him also in war, and to attend, night and day, to the idols in the temples, also at festivals and ceremonies. These lords, in their turn, had under them, cities and many vassals, but becoming proud and ambitious and unwilling to brook a superior, rebelled against the power of the supreme lord, united all their forces, and beseiged and destroyed the City of Mayapan. This destruction took place, according to Herrera, who is admitted to be unquestionably the most reliable Spanish historian, in the year 1420, or about one hundred years before the arrival uf the Spaniards, and according to the computation of the ages of the Indias, two hundred and seventy years from the foundation of the city, clearly establishing the year 1150, as the date of its foundation.

As we read that the various principalities, or whatever they were called in their day, were continually hostile to one another, it is fair to suppose that the custom of Kilkenny cats obtained their usual peculiarity here and a general destruction took place, that is if one may judge from the similar state of ruin that exists in the various places, to which one by one, we will call attention.

Particulars of a more detailed character, which we find in old books, are so confused, indistinct, and in some instances so contradictory, that difficulty is experienced in effecting a reconciliation, or arriving at any satisfactory deduction, but evidence of the existence of the principal city, called Mayapan, and its ultimate destruction by war at about the time indicated, is mentioned by every historian, and the same exigencies may have existed elsewhere, especially as all were inhabited by the same race of people.

Herrera, Landa, Carrillo-Ancona, and the renowned American Archaeologist Stephens, who in himself, has done more than any other writer, to hand down to

posterity, what would never have been known, if it had not been for his researches, have all to a certain extent, reaped information from Cogolludo, the great Spanish clerical historian, who flourished about the year 1658, and subsequently from the celebrated jesuit priest and historian, Francisco Javier de Clavijero, and combine in dilating upon the bitter war that waged between the King of Uxmal, and the King of Mayapan, when it is fair to deduct that the male members of the various largely inhabited kingdoms, principalities, or what not, were, from time to time killed off, or offered up as sacrifices to mollify their supposed insatiable gods, what became of the women is of course difficult to imagine, but we think our theory may be accepted that the general destruction of the various seats of governments took place more or less simultaneously as the date of the destruction of Mayapan is admitted to be historically correct, in the absence of more positive proof, although not doubting that some places were much older than others, we may assume the general downfall dates from the same epoch.

NOCACAB.

About eight kilometres South of Ticul, with two lines of railway, and situated about seventy five miles from Merida. It has ruins, which consist of a building, of which the facade above the cornice had fallen, and below it was of plain stone. The interior was entire, but without any distinguishing features. Following the brow of the hill, there are three other buildings standing on the same range, and without any important variations in the details, except that in one, the arch had no overlapping stone, but the sides of the ceiling ran up to a point, and formed a complete angle.

NOHPAT.

These ruins lie about three miles from the village of Nocacab, which place although only about eight kilometres South of Ticul, is thoroughly behind the times, the inhabitants only a few years ago, running away and hiding themselves on the approach of strangers. The apparent decadence calls attention, as every appearance exists throughout the neighbourhood that it once had been a very thickly populated and important district, but now, directly after leaving the main road, little is known of one or the other. The very names of the places in the Maya tongue are suggestive, Nohpat meaning "a great lord or señor". and Nocacab signifying "the great place of the good land" The people belonging to the neighbourhood, are satisfied now to buy all their small wants at Ticul, considering that place their capital, and never thinking of coming to Merida, which has a distance of only eighty kilometres but is considered too far away, and no desire is evinced to ever visit the place.

Stephens adds that immediately after leaving the village of Nocacab, and fifteen minutes after turning off from the main road, are found the ruined relics and shattered remains of another ruined city. In making excavations near by, different sorts of vases and other vessels were dug up, and once a sculptured head was also similarly exposed. On a mound, one hundred and fifty feet on the slope, and about two hundred and fifty feet square at the base, stood a building which consisted of a single corridor, only three feet five inches wide. The original foundation of the building, had given way and separated, which dissolution was caused by the heavy rains. Great stone steps were found on the South side, at the base of which steps, was a large flat stone, eleven feet four inches long by three feet and ten inches broad, bearing in bas-relief, with sculpture rude

SACBEY. Façade of the principal palace.

and worn, a colossal human figure, which the indians said represented the King of the Antiguos, or the ancients. This stone was unfortunately broken in two places, whether intentionally or by accident, of course there is no means of knowing.

Here also were ranges of buildings, one with two stories, and another terrace with remains, forming together very picturesque ruins.

Passing by many of these ruined buildings and mounds, and near an open space, were the shattered remains of sculptured monuments, fallen and some half buried, strange figures, heads and bodies, probably the remains of idols, lay broken and scattered about in all directions.

OPOCHEQUE.

By reference to the Map, it will be seen that Opocheque is situated on the road between Becal a Station on the Campeche Railway, and eighty six kilometres from Merida, and Uxmal, which is also near a railway station, on the Ticul Branch of the United Railways: Close to the road is a high mound, with an edifice on its summit, the lower part of which is standing, above the cornice, part of the outer wall had fallen, but part of the roof remained, and all was entire within. No information could be obtained respecting these ruins.

Continuing on the same road, that is from Becal towards Uxmal, and when about five kilometres from the latter place, another mound was seen, on the top of which were two buildings, about eighteen feet long, each, the inner part remained intact, but the outer walls had fallen.

An infinity of objects worthy of the deepest study, are to be found in this locality, numerous signs of the

neighbourhood having been at one time largely inhabited, investigations might be rewarded with success. Some of the ruins are tottering and crumbling.

OXCUTZCAB.

A station on the Peto Railway, ninety kilometres from Merida. In the town is a broad pavement of stones taken from the ruined building of an aboriginal town, there were ruined buildings in the neighbourhood, but no information could be obtained, as to whether any foreign archaeologist had ever been to the place to make investigation, and no person seemed to know or care any thing about the ruins.

SABBASCHE.

By reference to the map, it will be seen that this place is between five and six miles from Sannacte, about twenty miles to the South of Ticul, and eighty kilometres from Merida. It is a ranch, and near it, are the ruins, on which we now say a few words.

The owner of the ranch placed a large gang of indians at our disposal, each of which drew his machete, and soon cut a path to the foot of a terrace, on which was a small building, not very rich in ornament, but of tasteful, and even elegant design, but which the indians soon left exposed. The front of the building when in its perfect state, must have presented a fine appearance. It had a single doorway, opening into a chamber twenty five feet long and ten feet wide. Immediately over the doorway is a portion of plain mason-

CHACMULTUN.

ry, and over this twelve small pilasters, having between them the diamond design of ornamentation, then another massive cornice with more pilasters and diamond work, and repeating making in all four cornices, and constituting a hitherto unknown ornamental arrangement. The inhabitants of the place were a fine looking race, and who showed their agility in catching an unfortunate iguana, which is considered a choice table delicacy, the poor brute ran into a crevice, but was eventually caught, at the expense of a large piece of the façade which was torn down, in order to effect the capture, the ruthless destruction being considered of no moment in comparison to what they sought.

Another building, seventy feet long, with three doorways and a corresponding number of apartments, lies in a different direction, about a quarter of a mile from that just described, and is completely buried in the woods. A great part of the façade has fallen, but what is left, presented a pleasing effect. About a mile and a half from these buildings, are two others, one of which was larger than the above described one, and notwithstanding a great part of the front had fallen, what remained offered an interesting spectacle, it had only been discovered recently, when ground was being opened for cultivation. This information Stephens says, gave great weight to the old opinion, that cities may exist, equal to any now known, buried in the woods, overgrown and lost, and which perhaps will never be discovered.

SACBEY.

Lying to the South East of Uxmal, and to the South West of Nocacab, equidistant about five kilometres, lies Sacbey, which offers interesting studies. Knowledge of it was gained by some old walls being seen on an eminence to the right of the road going South and a little further on the same side of the road, the principal ruins of this place consist of three irregularly disposed buildings, one faces the South, and measures fifty three feet front by twelve feet six inches deep, it has three doorways, which are peculiarly small; The second building, a little further South, is about the same size as the other, and has three apartments, with two columns in the centre doorway; The third building is in such an advanced state of decay, that not even measurements could be taken. Near as the ruins were to the village, the village priest had never seen them, they stand about a hundred feet from the path, but are so completely buried amongst the trees, as to escape notice.

A short distance beyond, is one of the most interesting monuments of antiquity in Yucatan, it is a broken platform or roadway of stone, about eight feet wide and eight or ten inches high, crossing the road and running off into the woods on either side, the indians say the way traversed the country from Kabah to Uxmal, and that it is called Sacbey by them which in the Maya tongue, means "a paved way of pure white stone," it was the only instance of a tradition that had been heard in this vicinity, Stephens is of opinion that this part of the country offers unbroken ground for future exploration. The place is now known as Xhaxché.

SACAKAL.

An hacienda about five kilometres South of Tecax, is also in the neighbourhood of ruins, about half a mile after leaving them, on the road to Tekax, one hundred and six kilometres from Merida, and in the woods to the left, is a stone terrace, in which there is a circular hole which had three openings to passages that went underground to an extent entirely unknown, no one could imagine their object.

Here also upon a higher terrace, were two buildings in a good state of preservation, the exterior of which was ornamented with pillars set into the wall, more fanciful and different from façades in other buildings that we have seen. The interior consisted of a single apartment fifteen feet long by nine feet broad, the ceiling was high. The other building in front, was overgrown and ruined, but had an imposing and important appearance, and evidently had been an edifice of consequence in its time, there was much in the building that was new to us, and curious. Close by were mounds of undistinguishable ruins.

SAN FRANCISCO.

This place is a large hacienda in the neighbourhood of Ticul, in fact it is stated to be more than probable that San Francisco occupies the site of the old city of Ticul, and that for some unknown reason the position of the old town was changed. It is suggested that the Spanish priests battled with the Indian priests, and that the former erected a new church with imposing ceremonies, gradually overthrowing the power of the

indians, and eventually depopulating the old town, drawing the inhabitants to the new one, this idea is emphasized by the fact that there are clear and authentic accounts to be had, which states that a large Indian town existed in this neighbourhood at the time of the advent of the Spaniards.

Ticul, as will by found under its own heading, is now an important place, being catered to by two lines of railway, one seventy five kilometres, and the other eighty kilometres from Merida.

At a short distance from the hacienda, were the ruins of another city, having no name, except that of the hacienda on which they stand. In this connection it may be opportune here to add, that throughout the States of Yucatan and Campeche, there are numerous ruins that bear no names at all, and it is á notable fact, that those that have names, are continually changing them, according to the sweet will of the neighbouring inhabitants, consequently it is frequently an extremely difficult task to locate places to which attention has been already called by Stephens and others who have gone before.

At the time of Stephens's visit, the greater part of the old city was completely hidden by the thick foliage of the surrounding trees.

Near by, several mound were in full sight, dilapidated but havings fragments of walls on the tops, from the highest, the church towers of Ticul could be seen, the village cura was the authority that in the dry season, when the trees had shed their leaves, and thereby offered more extended vision, thirty six mounds could be counted, and every one of them held aloft a temple or building, but nothing now remains entire. In the great waste of ruins, it was impossible to form any idea of what the place had been, except from its vastness, and the specimens of the sculptured stone seen in the hacienda, but all clearly showed the large proportions of the city that formerly existed there.

SACNICTE.

1. The principal palace.

2. The temple.

From time to time, interesting objects are discovered, some of excellent workmanship, confirming what we are told by history, that there were cunning artisans in those days.

It is evident that all bore the same character as Uxmal, and had been erected by the same people.

Naturally its vicinity to the new city, has made its destruction more complete, as for generations it has furnished building stone to the inhabitants, in fact one of the actual owners at the time, was lamenting that the cut stone was nearly all exhausted, and consequently a source of income gone.

SACNICTE.

Is a ranch, close to Kabah, about five miles from Nocacab, and lying in a Southerly direction to, and about twenty miles from Ticul. It possesses two interesting buildings, with a path going between them; the structure on the left stands on a terrace, all still strong and substantial, and up to the year 1843, was in good condition and clear of trees, although many were growing on the roof, the building had five apartments.

The other building had a high wall above its second story, the use of which cannot be imagined. The façade above the cornice had fallen, and between the five doorways, were the remains of small columns that had been set into the wall.

On the other side of a cornfield, was another edifice, holding aloft a high wall, like that seen at Sayil, extraordinary in its appearance and incomprehensible as to its use or purpose, but nothing else of interest remained to be seen.

The place was inhabited by the wildest people so far seen, the women ran away, and the men crouched on the ground bareheaded, with their long black hair hanging over their eyes, gazing in stupid wonder, when they saw strangers.

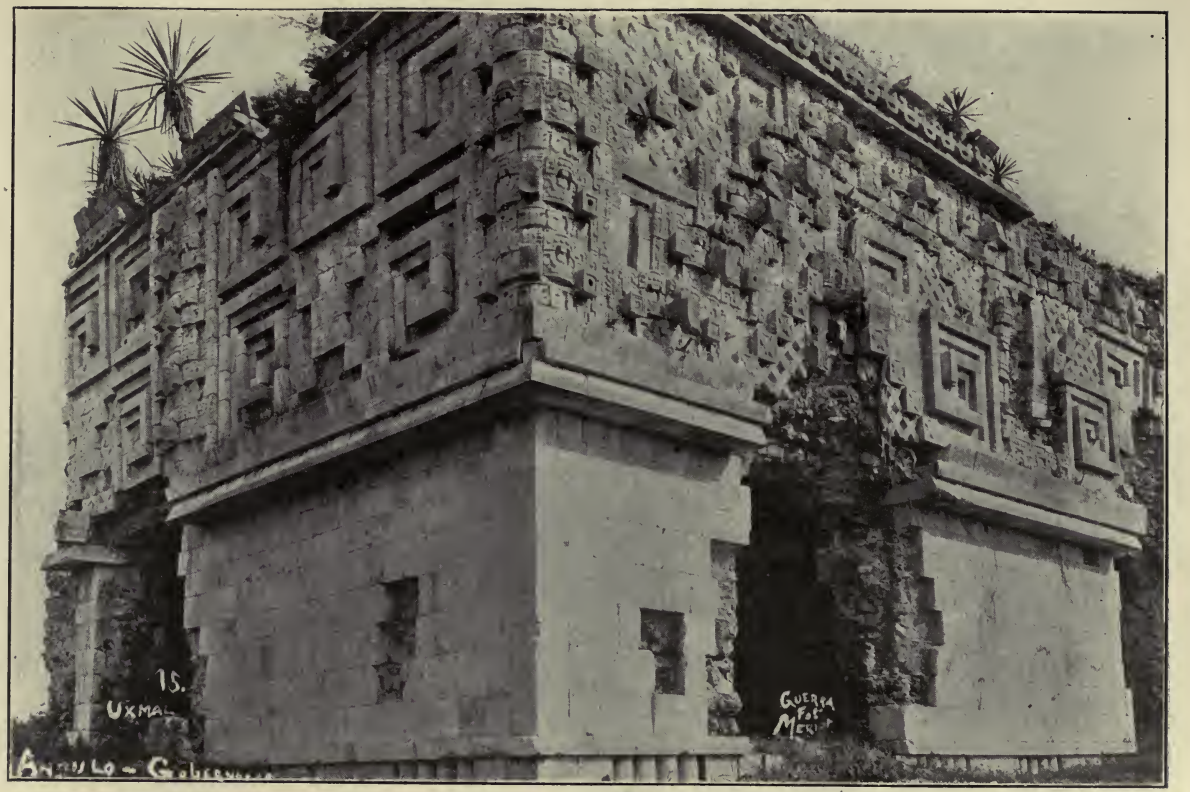
SENUISACAL.

This place is near Halacho, a station on the Campeche Railway, seventy eight kilometres from Merida, it has ruins, but the same are in the last stages of decay and beyond the pale of interest.

SIJOH.

This is the name of an hacienda, about five miles from Tankuche, a town eight leagues to the West of Becal, a Station on the Campeche Railway, and five miles from Maxcanu, another Station on the same line, the first fifty nine kilometres, and the other eighty six kilometres from the capital city of Merida.

A mound thirty feet high of solid masonry was found here, with some of the stones composing it measuring six feet long, and three feet broad. On the South was a range of steps, the risers of which were fifteen inches high, with treaders about three feet long. At the base was a stone trough, called a pila. Near here was another mound about sixty feet high but its features were entirely lost, the mass of stone composing it was so solid that vegetation could not take root, the sides were bare and bleached. Here, or rather close to



UXMAL. Angle, palace of the Governor.

the last mentioned, were two others of nearly the same height, but so ruined as to hardly preserve their original forms.

On passing between the two last referred to we saw three more, forming as many angles of a square or patio, besides rising amongst the bushes and briars, were huge stones similar to those at Copan in Guatemala, but even more extraordinary and incomprehensible being rude in shape, four of them were fourteen feet high, without considering the necessary length that must have been embedded, they measured four feet in width near the top, which was broader than at the bottom, and were eighteen inches in thickness. All stood in a leaning position, as if the foundation was imperfect. The others were still more irregular in shape as if the largest stones were chosen indiscriminately, and only with regard to bulk, no idea of symmetry or beauty being considered In their desolation and solitude, they looked like tombstones in a graveyard. Evidences of a large city having once been here, are very noticeable, but notwithstanding the fact, no man could be found that knew anything about it, nor even its name.

TABI.

Is an hacienda two leagues from Labna, the position of both will be seen in the Map. In the walls were sculptured ornaments from ancient buildings, at the foot of some steps was a double headed eagle, well carved and holding in its claws a sort of sceptre, and below were the figures of two tigers four feet high. In the back of the house was a projecting stone figure, with its mouth open, besides having an uncomfortable expression of face, arms akimbo, and hands pressing

the sides as if suffering from nausea. It was used as a water spout, and a stream of water was pouring out of the mouth. The buildings from which these stones were taken had been near the hacienda, but were now a pile of ruins, the same source had furnished materials for the construction of the church, and also various walls and edifices belonging to the hacienda.

It is sad to say, and almost quite unnecesary to add that no person could give any information respecting these ruins, nor was any document forthcoming touching on the matter.

TICUL.

This is, after Merida, the most important City and District in the State, having by the last census a population of nearly 9000 inhabitants in the former, and over 25,000 in the latter, it is a busy place, having as before stated two different lines of railway, and being by one line seventy five kilometres, and by the other eighty kilometres from the capital city of Merida.

The place possesses records dating back to 1588, besides having the remains of an old and ruined city, many houses of the new city being built with the material that had formerly done good service in the old one, amongst which buildings the present convent can be included.

Ticul has considerable importance also from an archaeological point of view, and is alluded to from time to time in these pages.

UXMAL.

Uxmal, or as it has been seen written Uxum-ual, is said to mean in the Maya tongue, the mother of a large progeny, which we are informed was at one time, well applied to the place, although it can hardly be considered applicable, in its present deserted state. The neighbourhood, nevertheless, to-day offers perhaps, the most notable combination of ancient and modern art, to be found in any part of the world, possessing as it does, its wealth of ruins of a bye-gone magnificence and intelligence, side by side, so to speak, with ponderous modern machinery, used in preparing considerable quantities of Fibre for the market. Further details of which industry, have been added, in a separate paragraph, in this sketch.

So after procuring your permit, at No. 553, 59th Street, in Merida, very little trouble is experienced in other respects now-adays, in viewing these particular ruins, as they are accessible, nearly all the way, by rail; the consequence is, that Uxmal offers inducements by which its treasures can be seen more rapidly and comfortably than any other group in Yucatan, they are therefore better known, and more largely patronised than any other, although they are not as many suppose, the most important, as the blue ribbon is generally awarded to Chichen Itzá, by all those who have seen that group, or even read about it.

To get to Uxmal, take the 3, .30 p. m. train, from the Mejorada station in Merida, and after making yourself satisfied on that score, take tickets for Muna, a distance of sixty four kilometres, where so-called accommodation is found at the abode of one Serapio Cabrera, who hires out hammocks, to be slung in the corridor of his house, for the modest sum of one dollar each, per night. This arrangement, which is entirely devoid of all privacy, may be materially improved by

keeping on in the train, a few miles further to Cruz Uxmal Station, where by previously having obtained permission from the proprietor, Don Augusto Peon, who resides generally in Merida, the night may be passed very comfortably at San José, the name of a country residence, near the Station.

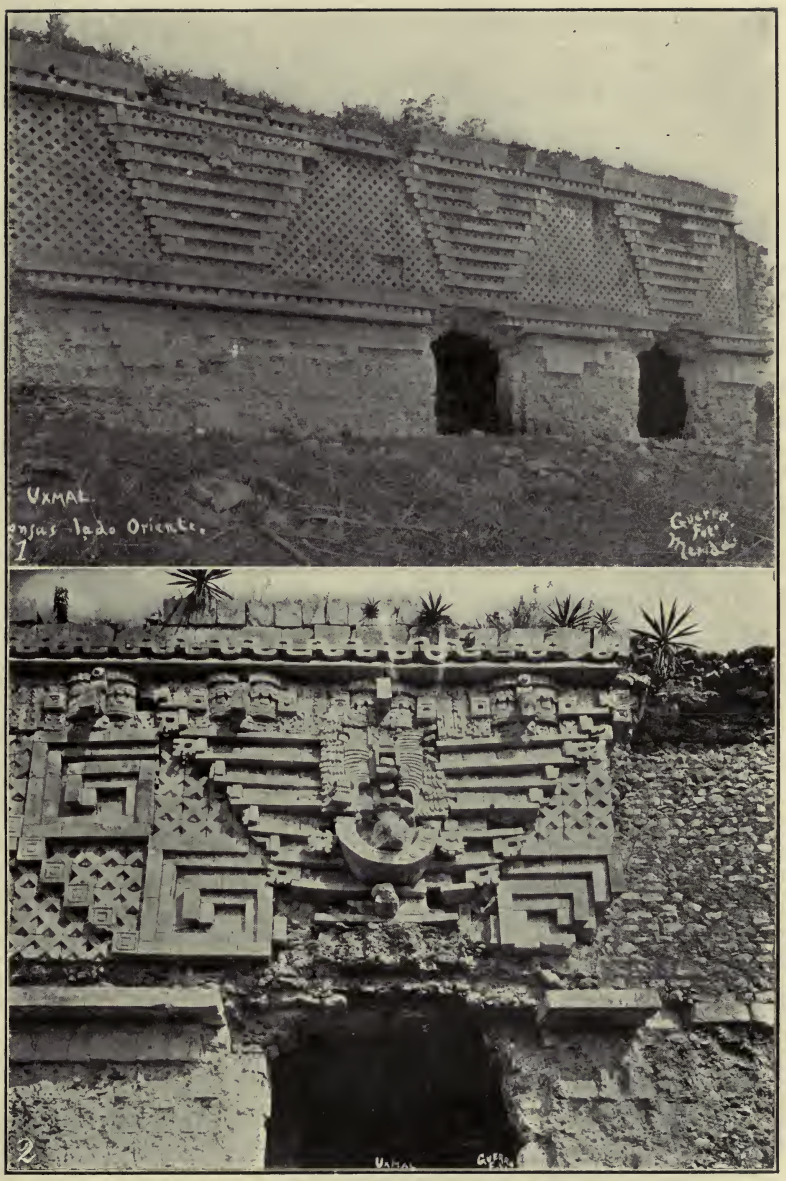
Continuing on next morning, from either place, Muna or Cruz Uxmal, by volan or saddle animal, for a distance of six leagues, say fifteen miles, the hacienda house at Uxmal is reached, this is a residential building of modern construction, nevertheless looking like an old baronial castle, and built of dark grey stone, rather ruder in finish than generally seen in similar farms, but possessing a pronounced appearance of antiquity, as if lent by and in accordance with the ancient surroundings. The place has another interesting detail, a church which contains a figure of Our Lord, "Nuestro Señor", revered by the Indians of all the neighbouring haciendas, and the fame of which has reached a long way.

From this place, the distance to the ruins, is only a mile and a half.

Upon the basis of the old saw, that first impressions are the lasting ones, perhaps the following startling revelations will tend to accentuate the interest that is generally taken in these especial ruins, which we are now about to describe.

Amongst those archaeologists who have from time, visited the various ruins of Yucatan, unquestionably the French savant, Dr. Auguste le Plongeon, takes a very prominent position, he having made further researches, given more practical results, and originated more theories than any other traveller, and although some of his assertions seen incredible and impossible, still up to the present time no person has dared or cared to take them seriously, or refute them publicly.

We read that this energetic archaeologist, accompanied by his accomplished and scientific wife, studied



UXMAL.

1. Details of the east Façade of the Monjas.
2. Design on Façade of house of the Governor.

the hieroglyphs of Yucatan, for a matter of seven years, the result of which, aided by unusual linguistic attainments, including Maya the vernacular language of the locality, he has been phenominally successful in his investigations. It is to him, that the world owes the beautiful statue of Chaacmol, he having discovered it, eight metres below the surface of the ground, the indians who accompanied him, attribute the discovery to divination, scientists ridicule this idea, and substitute the word luck, but he maintained that he learned of the existence of the statue, solely and only by his knowledge of the hieroglyphics, which statement has been challenged, many persons denying his ability in having been able to read anything about the matter, and attributing all his interesting discoveries to chance only.

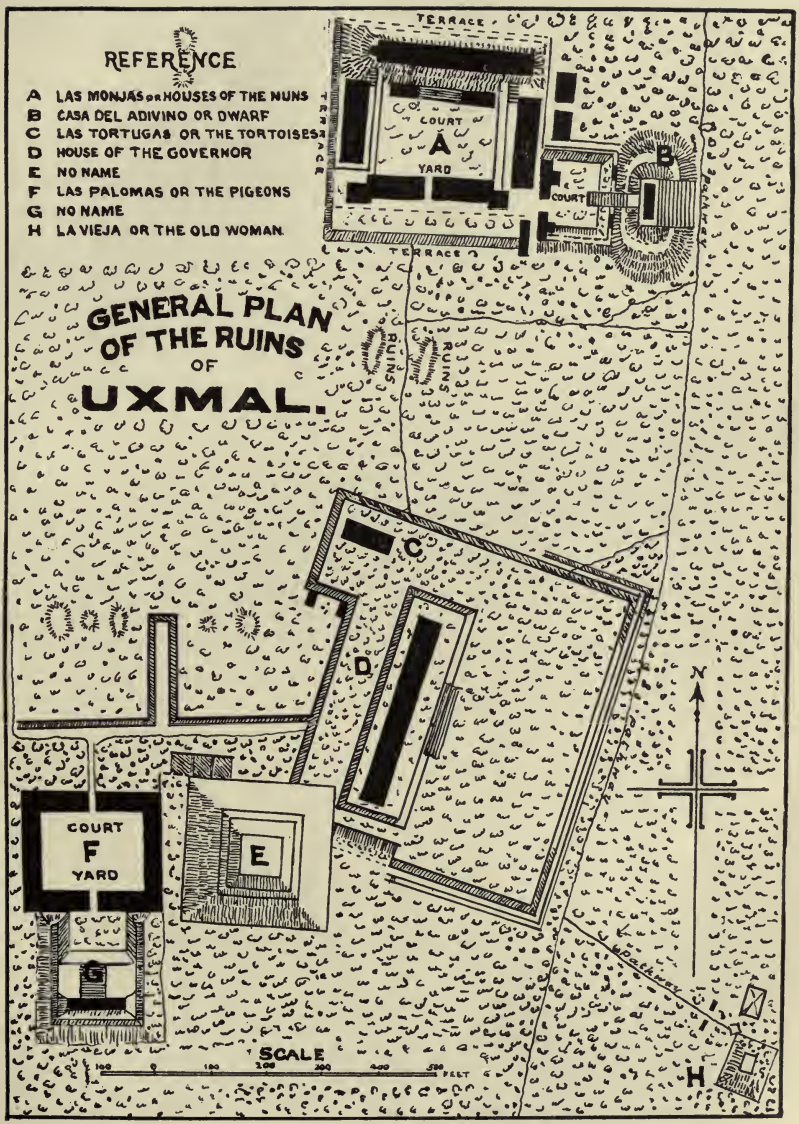
The above mentioned discovery was made at Chichen Itzá, but as Dr. le Plongeon's name is mixed up in an extraordinary manner with Uxmal also, we must devote considerable space in which to represent his marvellous and interesting conceptions, and to show the indomitable perseverance of the man, even when the loss of the statue, must have been keenly felt. The statue in question having been seized by the Government and taken to the metropolitan Museum where it is now to he seen. Still he bore up bravely, and his ardour did not seem to diminish. In many respects he was a wonderful man, and as far as inventive genius was concerned, rarely equalled and may therefore certainly be called, a prodigy of the age.

But as to his boasted ability of reading hieroglyphics, which to others, still remain incomprehensible, we happen to be in a position to be able to show a very flagrant and erroneous statement, which he has made in one of his communications, to which interpretation we take exception, and naturally with that knowledge, our faith in the veracity of other apparently remarkable, or perhaps, marvellous representations, has been,

greatly against our will very much shaken, we admit that it does seem a pity to ruthlessly destroy a pretty and pathetic story, but we give the fruit of our labours, which although being more verbose than we should have desired, still we think that fruit will be considered interesting and decidedly original, at the same time it must be added, that we are of opinion that a so-called authority, or at least one posing as such, must have been possessed of a considerable amount of nerve, to put on record, such palpably erroneous ideas, unless he was convinced that, what he was giving to the world, was worthy of credence, and therefore unquestionably true.

We are certainly aware, that there are others who place the most implicit confidence in his works, both theoretical and practical, and give him the credit of having been the means of bringing to light, many so-called historical facts, that have long been buried in the mists of ages. We merely add this preamble, to disclaim all responsibility, as to the authenticity of what we do nothing but transcribe, and leave people to judge for themselves, to accept Dr. le Plongeon's theories, or denounce them, at their own sweet will.

Among his representations, he apparently has no hesitation in stating that, the words "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani," to be read in the 46th verse of the XXVIIth chapter of Saint Matthew, are pure Maya, and that the words literally mean, "It is finished, and darkness comes over my face," even with this interpretation, there would be some difficulty in effecting an analogy with the words of the Evangelist, "My God! My God! why hast Thou forsaken me?, but in consequence of our long residence in Yucatan, we happen to know, that the words in the Maya tongue, cannot possibly be translated in the manner quoted by the so-called savant they having unfortunately, only a senseless and irrelevant meaning in English.


REFERENCE
A LAS MONJAS or HOUSES OF THE NUNS
B CASA DEL ADIVINO OR DWARF
C LAS TORTUGAS OR THE TORTOISES
D HOUSE OF THE GOVERNOR
E NO NAME
F LAS PALOMAS OR THE PIGEONS
G NO NAME
H LA VIEJA OR THE OLD WOMAN.
TERRACE
COURT
A
YARD
B
COURT
TERRACE
RUINS
RUINS
GENERAL PLAN
OF THE RUINS
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To clearly exemplify the situation, we think it better to give the literal signification of the words, in each of the three languages:

MAYA	SPANISH	ENGLISH
Eli	Ardió	I burnt
Eli	Ardió	I burnt
Lamac	Introdúzcase	Introduce, Put in, Put,
Sabac	Ollín	Soot
Ta	En tu	In thy
Ní	Nariz	Nose

We hardly know whether to be incensed, or amused at his ridiculous translation and presumptuous statements, and fail to see what could have possibly been his purpose in intentionally deceiving his readers by his atrocious assertions, or what ends he could have been serving by foisting upon them such an absurd interpretation, when unless he was the victim of others from whom he innocently took as gospel what they chose to give him, he must have known that he was abusing the confidence of many who trusted in him, and that sooner or later, his imprudence would be discovered to his everlasting discredit.

But as we have before remarked, that in consequence of this piece of imprudence, our faith in him, has been very much shaken, and which makes us in our ignorance, reasonably sceptical with regard to his other representations which unfortunately we have no means of proving, we may now possibly be doing him an unintentional injustice by disdaining a possible work of merit, but having been once bitten we are naturally twice shy, and have to take all that follows, in which his name is associated, at its face value, or with the proverbial grain of salt.

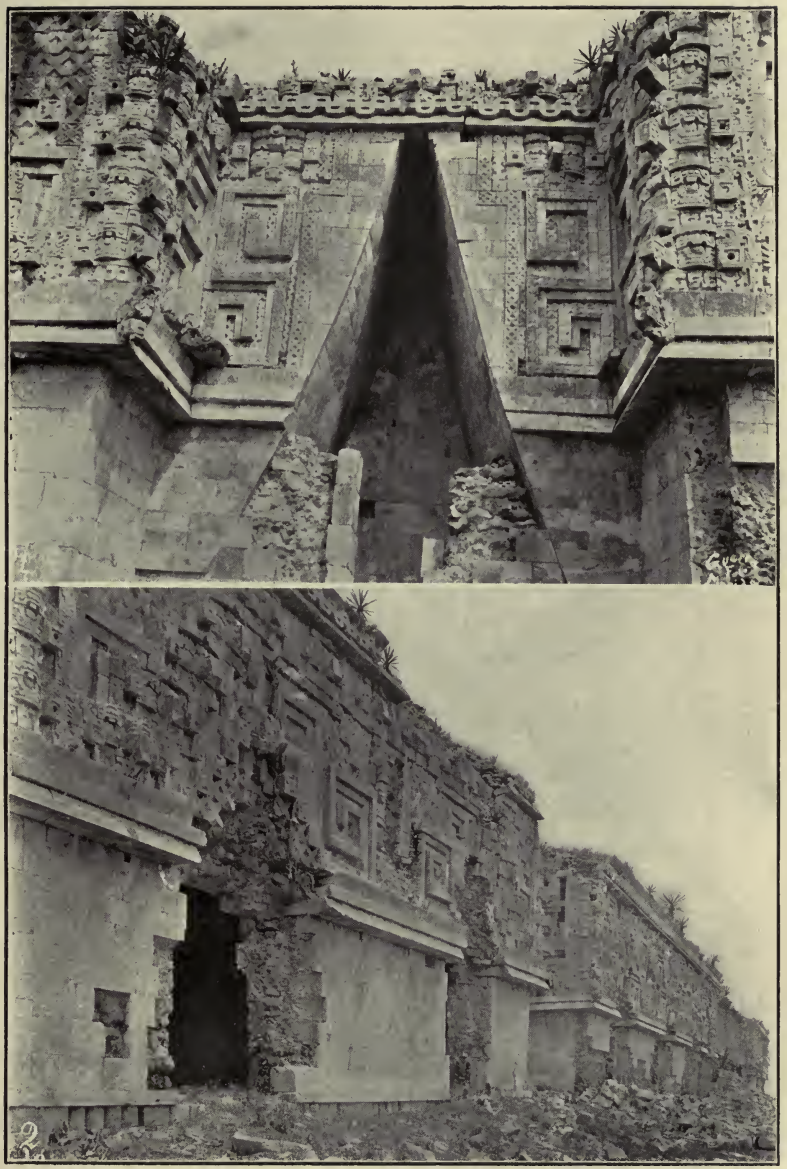
Amongst other discoveries, he goes on to say that he finds inscribed on the columns, obelisks, mural

ornaments and temple walls of the ancient city of Adam and Eve, with a detailed account of the killing of Chaacmol (Abel), by his worthless brother Cay (Cain), while Ake, the High Priest, in vain endeavoured to save him. Representations of Abel's wife, and sister Moo, with his mother, father, sisters and brothers, weeping over his ensanguined corpse, are sculptured on the façades of several ruined temples, while deep in the interior of a huge mound, at Chichen Itzá, were found his (Chancmol's) statue, and the urn which once contained his heart together with some primitive ornaments, and the knife, made of a light coloured obsidian, with which he was assassinated.

Le Plongeon was also of opinion that he could satisfactorily prove that the Egyptians received the light of civilization probably about one hundred and fifty centuries ago, from Yucatan, and that the learned priests of the great Maya temples of Uxmal, taught the people of Chemi about the creation of the world, and the story of Adam and Eve, Chacmool and Cay, the latter two, being as we have said, the Maya names of Abel and Cain.

During his visit to Uxmal, the scientific explorer made a still more remarkable discovery, he deciphered hieroglyphical inscriptions found engraved on the temple walls of the ruined capital, which furnish an account of the submergence of the lost continent Atlantis, thus the narrative of Herodotus, the father of history, and the account given to posterity by Plato, are in every essential confirmed, when they state, that thousands of feet below the troubled surface of the stormy Atlantic, lies the vast territory, that was once the scene of human greatness, and of an elevated civilization far superior to that which confronted the truthful traveller in Egypt, two thousand three hundred years ago.

We read that, if we may believe the reported statements of some Central American newspapers, the



UXMAL.

1. So-called Chapel of the house of the Governor.
2. Palace of the Governor.

names of which journals, unfortunately are not given, the truth of Dr. le Plongeon's assertions, regarding the lost continent, have recently been, to an extent, attested by a fortunate discovery, of which the Carribean Coast (this is decidedly vague) was the scene. In excavating a deep hole, some workmen came upon a large rock, forty feet below the surface. This huge stone was covered with hieroglyphics and engravings, which it said, gives a brief account of the sudden submergence of the vast territory, which was once situated in the wide expanse, that is now covered by a great portion of the Atlantic Ocean, the name of this gifted reader of the glyphs, is unfortunately withheld, in fact his enviable gift of reading is treated as an every-day performance, they are spoken of as being read, as if no difficulty existed in the deciphering of the characters, plain A. B. C., as it were, the wonderful performance is more surprising, from the fact, that no person professing even to be a tyro archaeologist, supposes that the orthodox code of hieroglyphics that were vogue in Yucatan, were in use on the Carribean Coast, or vice versa, but still if we are to believe all that we are told, trifles of that sort, did not worry le Plongeon or his associates. But the many glyphs in Yucatan have not been so fortunate, for up to the present day the key has not been found, they in consequence have not been read, and for our part we fear they never will be, for although le Plongeon asserted that he had overcome every difficulty, and that all picture writings were perfectly plain to him, if we are to credit his statement after our recent experience, he alone was phenomenally fortunate in his studies, for there are many students to day, as far as ever from arriving at the solution, or grasping the key of the situation as ever there were, they not yet knowing or being able to determine, if the writings are read up and down like the chinese, right to left like the arabic, or from left to right, like the anglo-saxon.

This paper is growing so much larger, than we had originally intended, that we hesitate to speak at length on this particular subject, but without going into detail, we must say, that it occurs to us that supposing the Carribean Sea, or Coast, just alluded to, had in any way been associated with the lost continent of Atlantis, the West Indian Islands, would presumably have taken some part of the original area, but the absence so far, of any discovered antiquities of a characteristic nature in any of the islands, seems to throw a lamentable amount of doubt on the theory.

Again the scientist affirms that many of the names of the letters of the Greek Alphabet are Maya, while the appellations of numerous objects, and also various Egyptian phrases are undoubtedly of genuine Maya origin, it is certainly with a good deal of hesitancy it must be stated, that there is decidedly some mistake here as no letter in the Greek Alphabet bears the slightest analogy to Maya, we can magnanimously give him the benefit of the doubt as to the Egyptian phrases, not being a position to question the matter, but there is a fact that we can honestly maintain, which is, that there are many words in Maya having a decidedly English sound, and that one, or perhaps two, have exactly the same meaning in both languages. Before concluding this paragrah on languages, it is opportune to add, that the facility with which the many chinese inhabitants of Yucatan acquire the Maya language, and the difficulty they find with the Spanish tongue has attracted our attention, we have never seen the matter mooted, but think it well worth an investigation on the part of philologists, when some very significant detail might be elicited.

In the face of the flagrant assertion, made by the learned reasoner, that he believed that Yucatan was the cradle of human civilization, and that the white robed priests of Uxmal had carried their religion into Egypt, we honestly admit that we have a difficulty in

even trying to effect a reconciliation with the following and more up-to-date statement, offered by the noted Yucatecan historian, Carrillo Ancona, who clearly states that the City of Uxmal was founded in the eleventh or twelfth century by the Toltecs, and was subject to the Empire of Mayapan, to which place a separate article will be found in these pages, he adds that Cocom, the despotic king of Mayapan, after many years of peace, being envious of Ticul Xiu the king of Uxmal, who was known to be an exemplary ruler, declared war against him, which campaign lasted for many years, although dates in reference to the same are lacking, but the result was, that Uxmal was destroyed and abandoned, King Titul Xiu, packed up what he could, and taking away with him as many adherents as possible, the larger part of his people having been taken as slaves by King Cocom, he Titul Xiu, founded another city in another part of the country which he called Maní.

It relieves our mind to a certain extent, to learn that theologians and even scientists generally have pronounced Dr. Le Plongeon's assertions as utterly false, besides denouncing him as a madman. He was nevertheless undoubtedly sincere, and was always inclined to persist in his opinions. Had he lived in the good old days of the Holy Inquisition, when burning, branding, and other ingenious modes of tortures were employed against those holding different views, or who presumed to utter a word against the dogmas, the teachings and precepts of the church, he would, beyond doubt, have been handed over long ago, to the tender mercies of that saintly institution, but he fortunately (for him) lived in an era of free thought, enlightenment and investigation, thus his life was safe, even if the priesthood of all denominations deride his opinions. As far as being a madman is concerned, he turned a deaf ear to such contumaceous aspersion, and cited the learned frenchman, Boucher de Perthe, who for a period of fifteen years was considered a poor harmless lunatic,

not only by the Gaelic Church, whose opinion was excusable, but by those learned parties the Members of the French Institute, because he asserted that the flint knives, arrows and lance heads, which he discovered embedded in the clay, at Abbeville, in France, were the workmanship of prehistoric men, all his assertions were subsequently found to be correct, and it is hoped the French Institute made ample recognition for the indignity he had suffered. Dr Le Plongeon adds that, he also will be able to prove all that he has affirmed relative to his knowledge of the glyphs, and that time will come to his assistance. We earnestly hope so, but hae our doots.

We must now dark back to the end of the fourth paragraph of this article, from where we will continue our remarks on these grand old ruins.

But before commencing sight seeing, it is suggested for obvious reasons, that you dress in white, or in the lightest coloured clothes that you may have brought with you, as during your rambles, you are apt to make the unwelcome acquaintance of the Pinolillo, and Garrapata, the first a minute specimen, and the other a larger edition of, for all intents and purposes, the ordinary dog-tick, both of which are a scourge in Yucatan, they are said to breed in the woods, and principally where cattle abound. The insects are terribly aggressive, and seem to defy all prevention that may be taken to keep them away from the body, being as we say, very small, they cannot be seen or felt, until they have actually commenced business, and got to work. It is said that nature has supplied them with a double proboscii, which they insert, after they have chosen the particular spot to be attacked, and then open or separate, giving the mouth that is between, and defended by them, an opportunity of working, consequently, should they be pulled out, which is very liable, the orifice would naturally become much larger and cause considerable irritation, terrible itching, and sometimes festering. Rubbing

UXMAL.

1. Palace of the governor.
2. Details of north side of the Monjas.

all the body liberally with petroleum, is supposed to be the most efficacious antidote, but some prefer the disease to such a remedy. Do'nt pull them out, but should the insects be sufficiently large, cut them in two with a pair of scissors, and nature will eject the other half in a day or two, if this suggestion will be observed, all possibility of festering will be prevented. Sometimes the bushes through which you may be compelled to pass, and unavoidably touch, are covered with them, and in their tens of thousands, many of which naturally get on your clothes, which if of light colour, will tend to their being, to a certain extent seen, and provision taken to brush them off. Their bite produces the similar effect as that caused by the little red ant, that most people know, only more so.

As we did with Chichen Itzá, and found the result to materially assist the description, we now prepare a plan showing the distribution of the buildings belonging to this district, also drawn to scale, and in accordance with the reference letters placed on it, treat with each edifice in its turn.

On leaving the Hacienda or residential building, and setting out for a walk to the ruins, through a noble piece of woods, suddenly on emerging from which, and greatly to our surprise, we come upon a large open piece of land strewed with mounds, which contain remains, also vast buildings on terraces, and a pyramidal structure, many of the ruins being grand, and still in good preservation, besides being richly ornamented, and in picturesque effect, says Stephens, equal to the ruins of Thebes, if not better, for these latter standing on the flat valley of the Nile, and extending on both sides of the river, do not as in Uxmal, burst in one view upon the sight.

Ober gives the following lines, applicable to the situation, but whether they are original on his part, or whether he borrowed them, we unfortunately have no means of ascertaining, we nevertheless thank him for them:

"The dense wild wood that hid the royal seat,
The lofty palms that choked the winding street,
Man's hand hath felled, and now in day's fair light,
Uxmal's broad ruins burst upon the sight."

Uxmal was without any doubt at one time, a large, populous and highly civilized city, the Yucatan historian Eligio Ancona, says that the district was immense, and presumably contained many hundreds of thousands of inhabitants, he also adds, that the city was at one time surrounded by a wall, but which, if it ever did exist, has disappeared in its entirety. In no place, other than in modern history, can any allusion be found to the place, that the buildings which we are about to describe, were the works of accomplished architects, is readily admitted by every person capable of offering an opinion, but not a vestige of tradition even, is preserved to hint who the architects were, add to this, that it is almost a positive fact, that iron not being known to the builders, augments the importance of our subject, and causes us to be struck with admiration, with the grace and beauty of the numerous designs and the marvellous execution of them, with presumably defective tools displayed in all the works, these latter remarks have applied to Egypt also, to which place in many respects, there is a considerable analogy.

It certainly does seem strange that no iron has been found, either in the construction of any of the buildings or in any of the implements, that must have necessarily been used, this surprise is increased, when it is considered that carefully hewn and polished granite, was sometimes employed; it is true that red copper chisels and axes have been found, but it is difficult to suppose that all classes of work that is to be seen, was executud only by them; Dupaix suggests, that some alloy must have been mixed with the copper, to render it harder, which with silicious powder, might have been found sufficient to work their hardest and largest stones.

The view offered from the summit of the pyramid,

on which is constructed the House of the Dwarf, or the House of the Diviner as it is sometimes called, as from its elevated position vigilance upon the actions of the people could be maintained, is grand in the extreme and at the same time unique, embracing at a glance, La Casa de las Monjas, or the House of the Nuns; La Casa del Gobernador, or the House of the Governor; La Casa de las Tortugas, or the House of the Tortoises or Turtles; La Casa de las Palomas, or the House of the Pigeons; and La Casa de la Vieja, or the House of the Old Woman, all of which edifices are more or less elaborately ornamented with sculpture. Also can be seen many mounds, that are nameless but not less important, as all names given may be called misnomers, the original names having been lost or never having been known for the matter of that, and the comparatively modern appellations bestowed upon them by the Spanish invaders, as has been said, or by the local indians.

The entire pyramid upon which we were standing, which at one time must have looked grand and imposing, although designed for the terrible service of human sacrifice, Stephens gives some bloodthirsty descriptions of the frightful scenes enacted there; is about eighty feet high, not exactly pyramidal, but oblong with rounded sides, the length being considerably more than the width. All was originally faced with blocks of cut stone.

The remains of a grand staircase, seventy feet wide and containing about one hundred steps, climbs the Eastern face of the structure, that is from the base to the platform, upon which was a remarkable building, the steps however were narrow and steep, each step being between eight and nine inches in height. Cogolludo writes with reference to their precipitous character, that when the High priest had finished with the body of their sacrificed victim, and hurled it from the House of the Altar, or platform, nothing obstructed its pas-

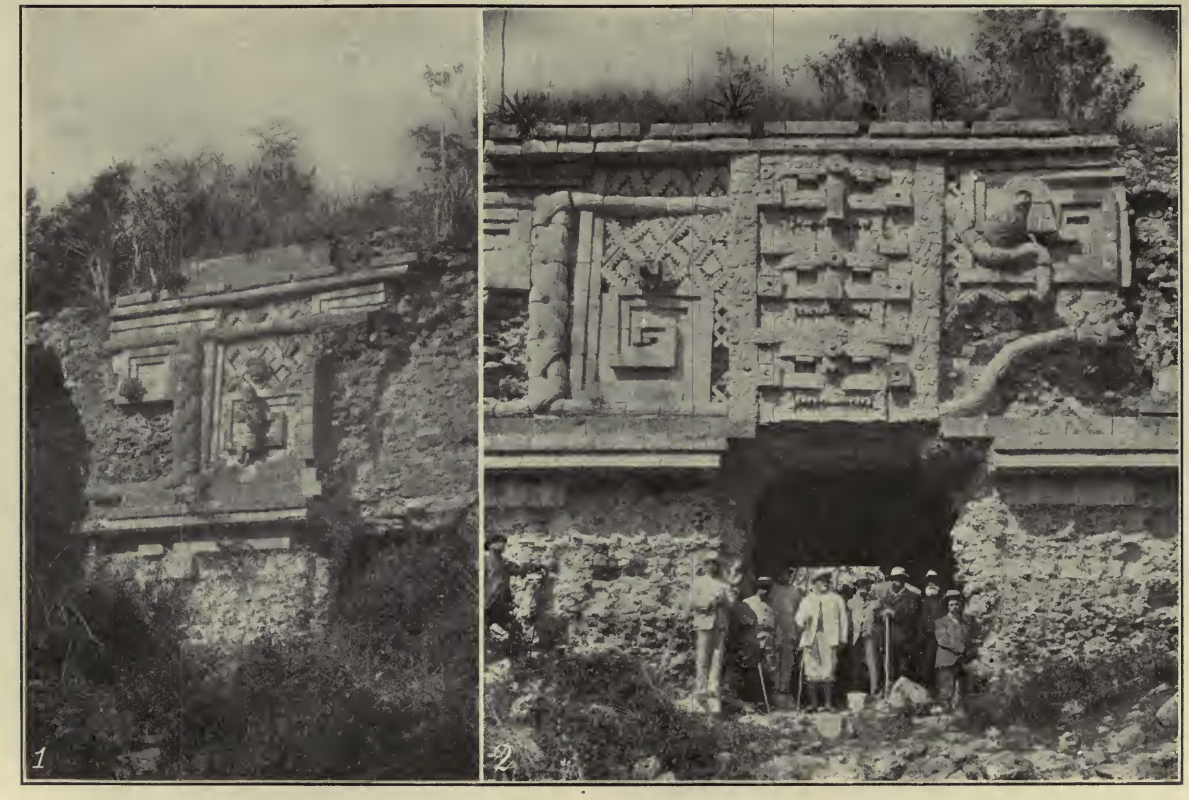
sage to the bottom, and it was highly impressive to see what had possibly been the remains of a grand specimen of humanity a few minutes before, now worthless, and gaining terrible impetus in its flight. As far as his personal experience was concerned, in alluding to these steps, he repented of his temerity in attempting to descend without assistance, he admits the danger was great, there being nothing to catch hold of, in case of making a false step.

Although considerable difficulty was experienced in reaching the summit, still by hard work, access to the very roof was attained, a matter of seventeen feet more, making the entire elevation one hundred and five feet from the base; but we were amply repaid for our trouble, as an indescribably beautiful and immense panorama was spread out before us, and as we have said, rarely has the vision an opportunity of taking in such a diversity of subjects at a glance, without the slightest obstruction intervening.

A great plain surrounded us, smooth and level as the sea, with nothing but the man made hills, in which we are so particularly interested, semi-circling from North-East, to South-West.

Almost directly below us, but to the West, was the House of the Nuns, in its ruins beautiful beyond description. To the South was the principal building of the group, the House of the Governor, raised upon its immense terraces, one of which also supported the House of the Turtles. The nameless mound lay to the South-West, while to the South-East, was to be seen the shapeless mass or remains, that once constituted the House of the Old Woman. To the West of the nameless mound, other formless knolls and clusters of remains of an extensive series of buildings were visible, amongst which was the House of the Pigeons.

The base is so ruined and encumbered with fallen debris, as to make it extremely difficult, impossible in fact, to obtain correct measurements, it is however,



UXMAL.

1. Details of the West Façade.

2. Details of the Snake.

about two hundred and thirty five feet long and one hundred and fifty feet wide, and as has been said, between eighty and eighty five feet high.

About twenty feet from the base, there are the remains of apartments, which apparently had their own separate staircase, and at about sixty feet up, was found a platform, on which was a building in the shape of a colonnade, bearing more elaborate carving than was found in any other part of this group, although all facades were rich in sculpture.

The building on the summit, is divided into three apartments, the centre one is twenty four feet long, by only seven feet wide, and the other two are nineteen feet long by about seven feet wide, all roofed with the usual triangular arch, the remains of a platform four feet wide surrounded the building, but from the front door of this extraordinary edifice, a pavement of hard cement, twenty two feet long by fifteen feet broad, leads to the roof of another building, seated lower down on the artificial structure. There is no staircase, or other visible communication between the two, but descending by a pile of rubbish, along the side of the lower one, and groping around the corner, we entered a doorway four feet wide in front, and found inside a chamber twelve feet high, with corridors running the whole width of seven feet three inches in the front, while the one behind was less then four feet, there being an internal division. The inner walls were of smooth and polished square stones, and there was no communication with any other place. Outside the doorway, the walls were loaded with ornaments, all easy means of communication had been cut off, as the steps leading from the foot of the structure were entirely destroyed.

The indians regard these ruins with superstitious reverence, they will not go near them at night, and not only have they the old story of immense treasure being hidden among them, but they have also a wild and highly imaginary legend, which it is now opportune to

introduce, to break the monotony of the descriptive notes:–

There was once an old woman who lived, not in a shoe, but in a hut that existed on the very site now occupied by the House of the Dwarf, and as can be seen directly opposite the House of the Governor. The old woman bitterly mourned the fact that she had no children, but one day, a happy thought occurred to her, to take an egg. cover it with a cloth, and carefully put it on the ground in one of the corners of her hut, she looked at it every morning, when at last she found the egg hatched and a criatura. or creature, or baby, had come to life. The old woman was delighted and called it her son, provided it with a nurse, who took such great care of it, that in one year the child walked and talked like a man, and then stopped growing. The old woman's excessive joy increased, as at this stage she said that she knew that her boy was destined to become a great lord or king. Her ambition being great, she told the dwarf to go to the House of the Governor and challenge him to a trial of strength, this he at first refused to do, offering every possible objection, but upon the old woman insisting, he subsequently went. The guard admitted him into the Governor's presence, where he stated the object of his visit, the Governor smiled, and told the dwarf to lift a stone weighing three arrobas or seventy five pounds at which the little fellow cried, and returned to his so-called mother to tell her, she desired him to go back and say, that if the governor lifted it first he would do so afterward, this the Governor then did, and the dwarf immediately did so also. The governor then tried him in other feats of strength, when the dwarf was equal to every emergency, at length being indignant at being matched by a dwarf, the Governor told him, that unless he built a house in one night, higher than any other in the locality, he would kill him. In great affliction, the poor dwarf returned to his mother, who bade him be comforted, and not be disheart-

ened, as everything would be accomplished according to her desires. On awaking the following morning, he was greatly astonished to find himself in this lofty building, which was then as now, called La Casa del Enano, or the House of the Dwarf. The Governor also being astounded to see the building, sent for the dwarf and told him to collect two handsful of cogoiol, a species of very hard wood, with one of which, he the Governor, would beat the dwarf over the head, and afterward the dwarf was to beat him over the head, with the other. On tearfully communicating this new requirement to his mother, she was equal to the occasion and told her boy not to be concerned with a trifle of that sort, at the same time putting on the crown of his head, a tortillita de trigo or a small thin cake of wheaten flour, which she assured him would serve as a protection from the expected blows. It was arranged that this perfomance was to be enacted in the presence of all the principal persons of the city. The Governor then commenced, and broke all the sticks composing his bundle over the little fellow's head without hurting him in the least. He then tried to avoid the trial by the dwarf on his own head, but as the arrangement was made in the presence of his officers, besides his word being given, he had no alternative but to submit, the second blow broke his skull in pieces, and the dwarf was hailed as the victor and immediately proclaimed as their new ruler, the old woman's prophecy thus coming true, seeing her son elevated to this high position she died contented, The sequel to this legend says that in the Indian village of Mani, seventeen leagues distant from Uxmal, there is a deep well, with which is connected a great cave that leads underground for an immense distance towards Merida, where on the bank of a stream, and under the shade of a large tree, all underground remember, an old woman sits with a serpent by her side. She sells water in small quantities, not for money, the current coin must be in

the form of a baby, which is immediately given to the serpent to swallow. As will be supposed already, this old woman is the re-incarnation of the dwarf's mother. Such is the fanciful legend connected with this edifice, but it hardly seemed stranger than the structure itself, and to which it referred.

The hieroglyphics on the Western part of the building on the summit of the heights, still remain in the memories of a few, but now little is to be seen, a certain archaeologist, le Plongeon presumably, claims to have the key to their meaning, and he apparently will not part with it,

Waldeck traces an asiatic style in the ornamentation of edifice, particularly in the representation of various emblems, the front of the lower structure represented a monster, half man, half beast, the mouth of which formed a spacious portico, the teeth the threshold, and the eyes the rounded windows, the nose had been destroyed by time, or much more probably by the ruthless hand of man. A giant of porphery, with four arms and an enormous head, stood on guard at the entrance, the sinewy body was covered with a coat of mail having the appearance of the scaly back of a lizard, the arms rested on the hips, as if in the attitude of challenge or threat, a favourite attitude of japanese wrestlers of the present day, and the other two were extended, as if giving a blessing.

Amongst the idols of zoological subjects which chiefly attracted attention, were animals of the probisced family, which some people say did not exist in America in historic times, but that statement is clearly proved to be wrong, as in the September 1907, number of the National Geographical Magazine, it is stated that remains of a species of elephant have been found in the Northern part of the American Continent, although the exact distribution of the animal in the new world, is still undetermined. From the supposition that the animal did not exist in America in historic times, many

UXMAL.

1. Rear Façade, House of the Dwarf.

2. Details on North Façade of the Monjas, (Nuns)

archaeologists are inclined to believe that American civilization is partly derived from India or Siam, but it is suggested, may it not on the contrary be possible that the Asiatic civilization is derived from the American. It is geologically proved that America is more ancient than Europe and Asia, the species of elephant found in America clearly belong to the post tertiary or Pleistocene epoch of geologists, but few people can reconcile themselves that the Amazon is older than the Nile. This is however well known to be true, and if the South American river seems to us younger than the Etheopian, it is because we have only learned to know the former in recent times, whereas the latter figures in Ancient History. General E. A. Lever, a Southern writer of note, who has made a study of priestly theories regarding the American indigene, adds that notwithstanding that many learned theologians, have during the last three centuries, written ponderous tomes, to prove that this continent was originally populated by colonies from both Asia and Europe, their adversaries have successfully refuted their arguments, and assert that America is the older world, and was most probably peopled long before any portion of the Eastern Hemisphere, but at the same time, we have sufficient reason to believe that this was not the General's own opinion, but that he was merely echoing le Plongeon's theory, in whom he had blind and implicit confidence, but to which, we unfortunately cannot subscribe.

One hundred feet from the bottom of the staircase of the Casa del Enano, or House of the Dwarf, brings us to the Casa de las Monjas, or House of the Nuns, or the Convent, or the abode of the Vestal Virgins, all fanciful names bestowed upon the building, by the Spaniards on their arrival, derived entirely from Spanish

traditions, as the local indians, were and are, totally ignorant of any history pertaining to the place, having no records, or legends connected with the buildings, under the head of the House of the Nuns, besides even the idea of vestal virgins was unknown to them, but it is presumed that they (the virgins not the indians) were employed to keep the sacred fire perpetually burning, and for which service the daughters of the higher and wealthier classes were chosen, the spaniards admit that the greatest care was bestowed upon them, and that the most blameless deportment was maintained. Strange to say, that no reference is made to them, in any of the old works at our disposition, other than by Spanish authors. The edifice is situated on an eminence about nineteen feet high, formed of three distinct terraces, the lowest of which is, three feet high, and twenty feet wide, the second, twelve feet high, and forty five feet wide, and the third, four feet high, and five feet wide; extending the whole length of the building, which is about two hundred and seventy nine feet. Its form is quadrangular at the base, and supposed to be, about two hundred and fifty feet square, but so much debris was encountered all round the walls, that the exact measurement was almost impossible to be made. Like the House of the Dwarf, it is built entirely of cut stone, and the whole exterior covered with the same elaborate and incomprehensible sculptured ornaments, which occupied a surface of over two thousand square feet.

The whole place was almost smothered in verdure, everything concealed with a rank growth of grass and weeds, over which we could hardly look, as we rode along. The tops of the buildings were covered with creepers, which extended over the façades, all a mass of destroying vegetation and of all descriptions, as Stephens graphically says in his inimitable manner:— "a strong and vigorous nature was struggling for mastery expectation of eventually conquering, and wiping

all those massive buildings out of existence, and leaving nothing but formless material, to hint what had been in ages past. Wrapped in the suffocating embraces of the rank growth which tended to bury all out of sight, it seemed as if the grave was closing over a friend and we arrived barely in time to take our last farewell.

The principal entrance is by a large gateway, ten feet eight inches wide, characteristic triangular arch and leading into a beautiful patio or court yard, grass grown, but clear of trees, and having the whole inner façade ornamented more richly and elaborately than the outside, and in a more perfect state of preservation. On one side the subject of the sculpture represented diamonds, simple chaste and tasteful, and at the head of the courtyard, two gigantic serpents, with their heads broken and fallen, were represented as winding in opposite directions, along the whole façade

On entering into the patio, and on either side of the gateway, are four doorways with wooden lintels, which open into apartments averaging twenty feet long, by ten feet wide, and seventeen feet high, that is to the top of the arch, but having no communication with one another.

At the end of the patio, and standing on a terrace twenty feet high, are the remains of a lofty building, with a noble façade two hundred and sixty four feet long, and to which, a grand staircase ninety five feet wide, gives access; at either end of the staircase, were buildings containing three apartments each, great symmetry is noticeable as to the doorways, on ascending the stairway, a platform twenty five feet broad is found in front of the long building, which has in the façade, twelve doorways, and one at either end, the said façade is peculiar, being twenty five to the upper cornice, to which must be added masonry, ten feet wide and seventeen feet high above it, which apparently had no earthly use except for appearance, nearly all these upper works have fallen, but when perfect must have

appeared imposing, sculpture was liberally bestowed upon this façade but the choice of some of the subjects, was hardly applicable, considering the purpose for which the building was supposed to be designed.

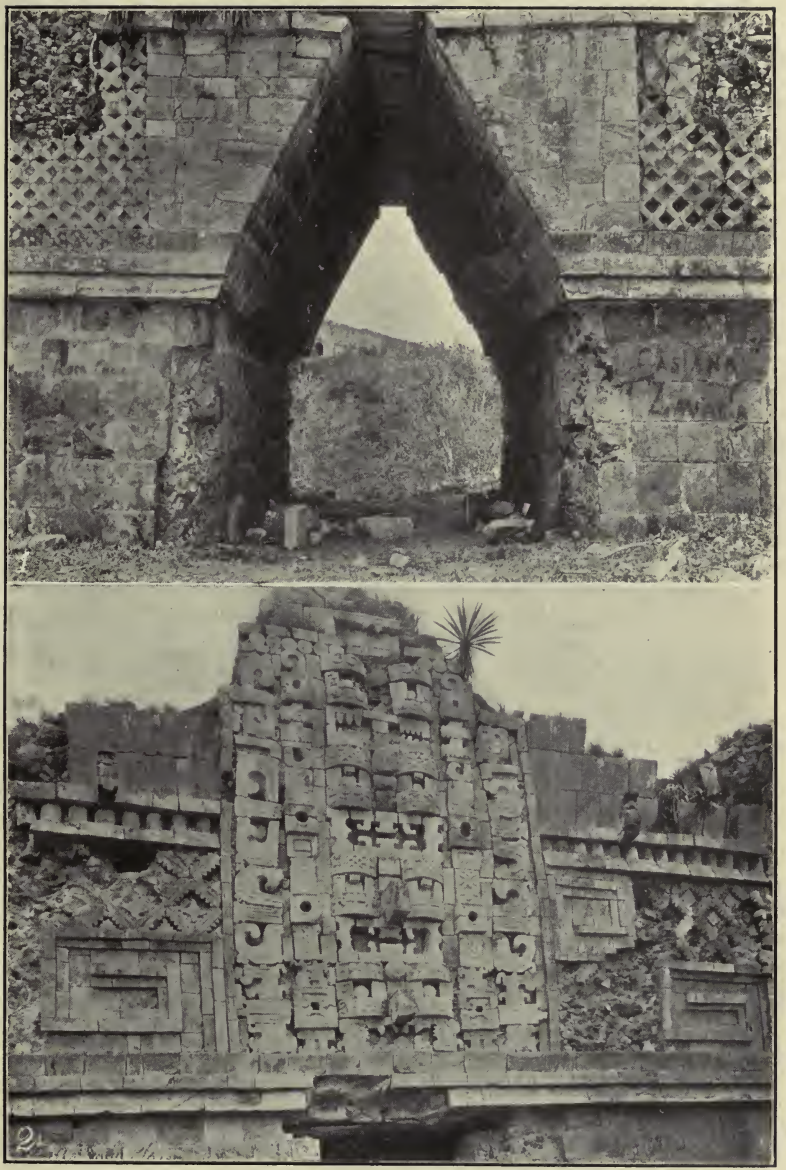
A ground plan of the buildings belonging to the so-called nunnery has been added, which will throw light upon the distribution of the apartments.

Nothing more of interest remaining to be told, we now proceed to view the other buildings.

The letter "C" on the guide map, represents two ruined buildings, both being one hundred and twenty eight feet long and thirty feet deep, and each containing one large room, these ruins lie about three hundred feet from the House of the Nuns, one on either side of the path-way going almost due South to the House of the Governor, a great peculiarity is attached to them, as they are in fact, twin buildings in every respect, being exactly the same size, and decorated similarly in all details. It is supposed they were erected for public amusement, games of some description, being exactly seventy feet apart, and each house being supplied with a large stone ring, four feet in diameter, directly opposite one another it is needless to say that the rings are broken, presumably by some vandal. The sides facing one another were embellished with similar sculpture, and each bear the remains of entwined colossal serpents, that ran the entire length of the façades.

Continuing on our way, for three hundred feet, more or less, and almost in a Southerly direction, you arrive at the House of the Governor, an enormous structure, and known by no other name; it is supposed to be the principal building of the old city, the presumed residence of the governor, in fact the royal house, it occupies the grandest position and is the most stately in architectural design and proportions. besides, it is the most perfect in preservation, of all the surrounding and remaining edifices forming the group.

Rising upon the original level surface of the land,



UXMAL.

1. Entrance to court-yard of the Monjas.
2. House of the Monjas (Nuns).

is an enormous artificial mound, composed of three terraces which in the aggregate, must by a rough calculation, contain something in the neighbourhood of five million cubic feet of material, and no idea can be formed from where such an immense quantity was borrowed, the following figures are as nearly correct as possible, but exact measurement under the prevailing circumstances, was almost an impossibility.

The lowest terrace measures six hundred and thirty feet long by four hundred and fiifty feet broad, and six feet high; the second terrace is about four hundred and eighty five feet long and three hundred and fifteen feet broad, and fifteen feet high; and the third terrace, upon which the beautiful edifice is erected is three hundred and sixty five feet long by two hundred feet broad, and fifteen feet high; thereby making the entire length of this imposing artificial structure, thirty six feet above the level of the ground. The building itself, is three hundred and twenty two feet long, by about forty feet broad.

We say, with Ober, that it is almost impossible to convey in mere words, a picture, either in general or in detail, of this beautiful building, but we trust that some idea of its magnificence, may be gathered from our attempt, supplemented by numerous photographs, that we have been fortunate in acquiring.

One writer is so carried away by what he saw, that he puts his impressions, on the buildings in general, in the following high coloured language:

"The entablature is supported by columns, which appear to be rocks worked by the hand of the Genii of Grandeur."

"The niches are immense and look like caves."

"The walls are covered with strange sculptures, and form an inconceivable chain of embossments, sculptures and filagree work, representing human heads fantastic birds and quadrupeds, surpassing imagination."

"The entrances in the fore part of the building, lead

to huge galleries and spacious halls, the walls of which are covered with mosaic work, likewise represent singular scenes, extravagant phantasmagorias, and undecipherable hieroglyphics."

"Wherever one turns, the enormous, the brutally colossal, the mysterious and the imposing prevails."

"The total superficial area of the bas reliefs of the walls, which still exist, amount to two square, kilometres."

"Near this unparalled architectonic structure, another similarly majestic and grand, (to which reference is made below, although in less hyperbolic phraseology,) rises on an immense plateau, and is called La Casa de las Monjas, the, ruins of this still comprise eighty eight large and fifty smaller halls, and scattered throughout the rank vegetation, are found endless galleries, inextricable labyrinths, dark vaults and passages, all revealing oppressive grandeur."

"Both these structures, that is to say. The House of the Governor, and The House of the Nuns, with the neighbouring ruins, form an embodiment the construction of which, in our day, could not be executed, under at least Fifty millions of gold dollars."

But to retrace our steps, and attempt to describe what is to be seen at Uxmal, in less extravagant language. The building is erected entirely of stone, inside the walls are of polished smooth stones, while outside, the blocks were plain and square, perfectly free of ornamentation, to a height of about ten feet, where is a rich cornice or moulding, notably rich and wide, and above which, the wall is a bewildering maze of beautiful sculpture of extremely elaborate ornamentation, forming a sort of arabesque.

The style and character of these ornaments were entirely different to those of any we had ever seen before, and to the best of our knowledge, they were unique. The designs being of the strangest and most incomprehensible character, very elaborate, and some-

times grotesque, but often simple, tasteful and beautiful.

Among the intelligible subjects, are squares and diamonds, with busts of human beings, heads of leopards, and compositions of leaves and flowers, and the ornaments generally known as grecques. The ornaments which succeed each other, are all different; the whole form an extraordinary mass of richness and complexity, rendering an effect grand and at the same time curious. Besides the construction of these ornaments is not less peculiar and striking than the general effect. There were no tablets of single stones, each representing separately and by itself an entire subject, but every ornament or combination is made up of separate stones on each of which part of the subject was carved, and which was then set in place in the wall. Presumably each stone by itself was an unmeaning fractional part, but placed by the side of others, helped to make a whole, which without it, would be incomplete, perhaps it may with propriety be called a species of sculptured mosaic.

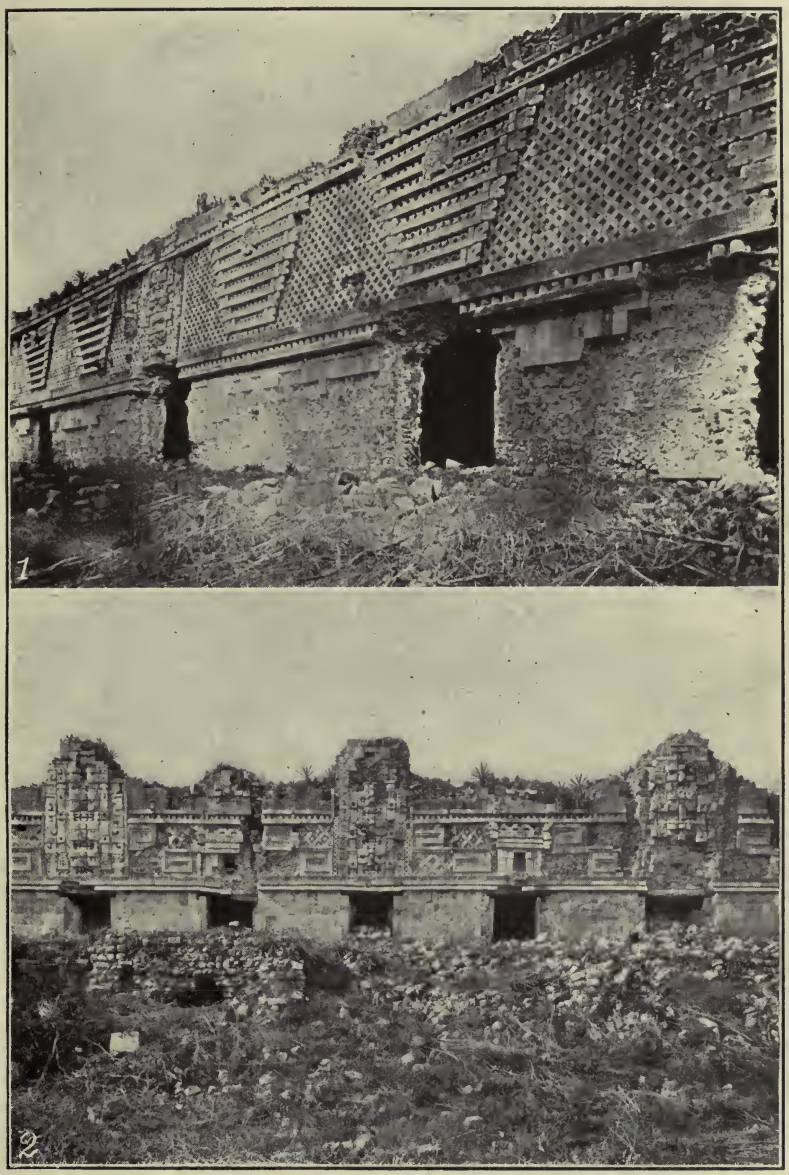
The House of the Governor has an Eastern aspect, in the centre of the front façade, and opposite to the range of steps leading to the terrace, are three principal doorways, giving entrance into a series of apartments, the middle doorway is eight feet, six inches wide, and eight feet, ten inches high, the other two are the same height, but two feet less in width. The centre door opens into an apartment sixty five feet long, by twenty seven feet broad, which in its turn, is divided by a wall, three feet and six inches thick, having a doorway between the two, of the same dimensions as the entrance. The plan is the same as that of the corridor in front of the palace at Palenque, except that here, it does not run the entire length of the building, and the back corridor has no exit. The floors are of smooth square stones, and the walls of square blocks laid with great precision, are smoothly polished. The ceiling of each room is formed by the customary trian-

gular arch without the key stone, capped by flat blocks and at a height of twenty three feet above the floor, the rough stones forming the arch are overlapping and covered with stucco, while the layers are bevelled off as they rise, and present an even and polished surface. The walls and jambs of the doorways are of smooth faced stones, that once may have been covered with cement, and notably the laying and polishing of the stones are as perfect as the work done under that found in the best modern masonry. The roof is flat, and in the opinion of certain travellers, was once covered with cement, but is now ornamented with a miniature forest, composed of the indigenous shrubs and small trees belonging to Yucatan, a hanging garden of nature's own formation says Ober, where in this tropical portion of her domain she is lavish in her attention, covering in a few years, everything susceptible with luxurious growth.

The most notable single ornament which lends richness to the whole façade, is over the centre doorway, and surrounding the principal figure or detail of the same, are rows of characters or hieroglyphics, which with little doubt, were meant to record the date of construction, and by whom the edifice was erected.

We purposely omit going further into the description of this figure as to do so, would be to draw too largely on the imagination, in trying to describe what is, or rather what was to be seen, as too much has gone to decay, to enable one to clearly represent what all originally meant, and with respect to other sculptures, it is distinctly best for each person, or so called student, to form his own impressions, as one person's views of the matter, are about as reasonable as anothers, it is perfectly impracticable for a thousand and one subjects to be described, leaving it absolutely essential that those interested in the study, should make a personal inspection of the ruins, and arrive at his own conclusions.

The rear elevation of the building, a good deal of



UXMAL.

1. House of the Monjas, (Nuns).
2. North side of building known as the "Monjas."

which, has succumbed to time, was formed by a solid wall, nine feet thick, without openings of any kind, and the style of decoration, corresponded with the front façade, with the exception of it being less gorgeous and elaborate.

The building was divided into twenty four apartments, of different dimensions, eleven in the front of the dividing line that ran longitudinally through the building, thirteen doorways are in the front one at either end, all the front rooms communicating with those behind, all the doors have naturally gone long ago, and the lintels of the doors, having been of wood, have also fallen.

We annex a ground plan, showing the distribution of the rooms.

From the outcome of accepting the indian tradition in regard to nomenclature, La Casa de las Tortugas, derived its name from a very ornamental sculptured beading, representing a row of turtles, which went round the upper cornice of the building, and was at one time sufficiently beautiful to have served as a temple, from the fact, that the remains of this edifice, even in the last stage of ruin as they were, displayed workmanship of great skill, and chaste simplicity in design; still from its close proximity, being only one hundred and twenty feet from the House of the Governor, it has been suggested that it served as a kitchen for the royal residence, it stood practically alone, and in the centre of the entire group of ruins, and the roof of which singular but wrecked magnificence, commanded a view, almost as grand as that from the House of the Dwarf.

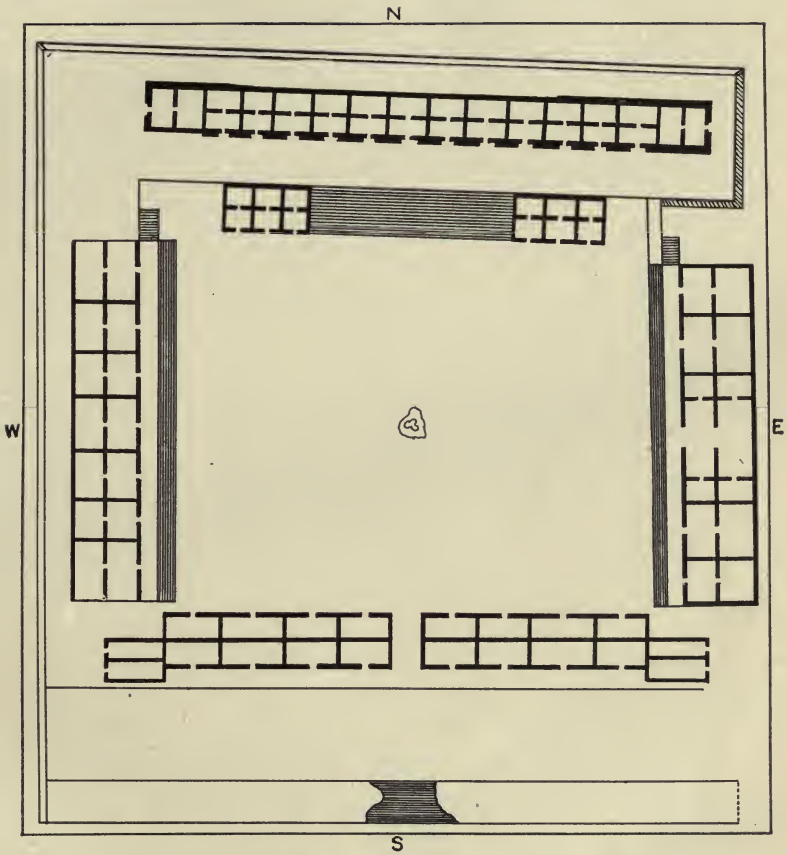
Although the greater part of the above theory is discredited by many, the subject even would have remained unknown, and not been offered to criticism, if it had not been for Stephens, to him be the glory of writing on, and handing down his notes, pertaining not

only to the details of this beautiful building and to the others forming this noted and interesting group but to all pertaining to the State of Yucatan, for without him, they would never have been given a place in history. Not half enough has been said about John L. Stephens, nor has he, nor his grand discoveries been sufficiently extolled, he has done more than any other man, living or dead, to bring the priceless treasures of Yucatan to the knowledge of the outer world, which perhaps prizes his memory more, than does the thankless and unappreciative country that owns them.

To the North-West of the second platform or terrace, that supports the House of the Governor, a piece of ground upon the same level, one hundred and fifty feet long, and one hundred feet broad, has been added, upon which La Casa de las Tortugas, or House of the Turtles, which in itself, was ninety four feet long, and thirty four feet broad was erected at right angles to the House of the Governor.

The greatest contrast, we are told, existed between these two structures, especially if one, as it is hinted belonged to the other, for while the one was rich and gorgeous in its lavish decoration, the other was notable for the simplicity of its adornment, there was nothing that bordered on the unintelligible or grotesque in the latter, nor anything that could shock a fastidious architectural taste, as in the House of the Dwarf, but unhappily, almost all has gone to decay, the interior is filled up with the remains of its fallen roof, and the walls are tottering and unsafe.

On a line with the back of the House of the Governor, and about fifty feet from the same, rises a high and nameless mound, marked "F" on the accompanying map.



Ruins of Uxmal, *The House of the Nuns.*
Plan of the Court-yard.

It is covered with trees, and a thick growth of vegetation, but the fact of it being sixty five feet high, and measuring three hundred feet on one side, and two hundred feet on the other at the base, gives it an imposing appearance, at first sight it seems like a wooded and grass grown hill, only that its perfect symmetry easily leads one to suppose that it is artificial, on investigation it is found to be solid, and that its vast sides are encased with stone, which in some places are richly ornamented.

With the assistance offered by the trees, the summit was reached, where a great platform, ten to twelve feet thick, bordered by smooth and sculptured stones, barely visible from the base, and seventy five feet square, was found, besides about fifteen feet from the top a narrow terrace ran on all four sides.

With these exceptions no other remains were to be found, nor any indications of any building ever having been there, but very possibly search would be rewarded by a staircase being discovered.

Notwithstanding a certain gloominess in appearance and decided oppressiveness caused by its sublimity and solemnity, its grand proportions constitute it one of the most imposing structures, among the ruins of Ũxmal.

Stephens suggests that the immense structure seemed raised only for the purpose of holding aloft the great platform, and that probably it had been the scene of grand religious ceremonies, besides being stained with the blood of human victims, which had been offered up in the sight of the assembled people, and being so designed as to command a full view of every building in the group.

The black lined edifice marked on the accompanying map, as lying to the West of the House of the Governor, and distinguished by the letter "G," is

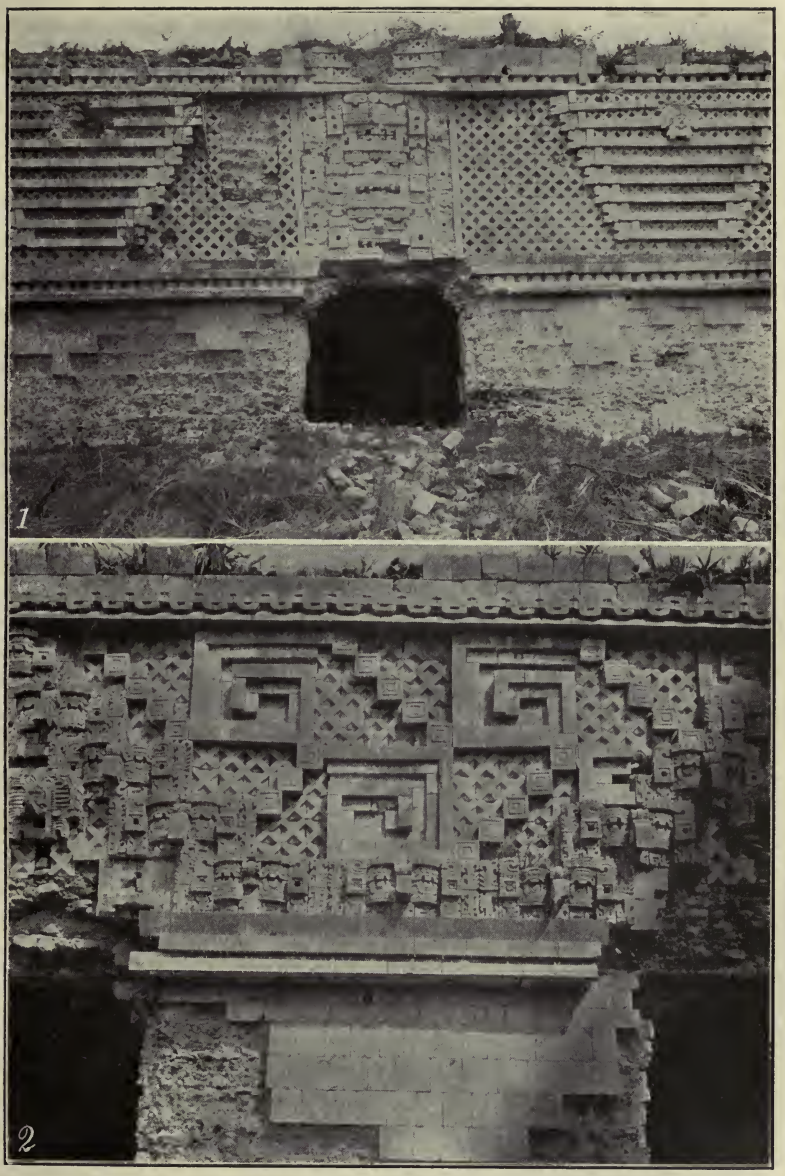
known as La Casa de las Palomas, or the House of the Pigeons, and derives its rather fanciful name, from the undulating character of a wall, which from a distance looked more like a row of pigeon houses than anything else, the wall in question runs about two hundred and forty feet, or practically its entire length, but in the centre of the building; and being embellished with nine gabled-like additions, similar to the façades of some old Dutch residences, although much more massive and grander, and the walls of which are three feet thick, but being pierced with oblong openings through the walls, makes it highly suggestive of pigeon houses, or the habitat of a large number of birds. This same front is in a terribly ruined condition, all the apartments near-by being filled with debris.

Not only this wall, but all the others forming the building. bear evidences of having once been covered with figures and ornaments is stucco, as portions still remain.

In the centre of this strange looking wall, is an archway ten feet wide which leads into a court-yard, one hundred and eighty feet long, by one hundred and fifty feet deep. Lying in the centre of this court-yard, is the same class of large stone, picote or whipping post so generally found, already mentioned in these pages.

On either side of the gateway, inside the court-yard, is a range of ruined apartments, and rising behind those to the left, is the high nameless mound just described, that stands between this building and the House of the Governor,

In front, that is at the end of the court-yard, is still another range of ruined buildings, having also an archway in their centre. Crossing this court-yard, and passing through this last named archway, on ascending a couple of ruined steps, another court-yard, one hundred feet in length and eighty five feet deep is reached, where more desolation is found in the shape of ruined



UXMAL.

1. Façade of the Monjas.
2. Palace of the Governor.

buildings, but opposite to the entrance, is a great teocalli, that terrible institution for human sacrifice, two hundred feet in length, by one hundred and twenty feet deep and about fifty feet high, a ruined broad staircase leads up to the top, where the remains of a long narrow building, one hundred feet long, by twenty feet deep and containing three apartments, is found. The place upon being visited, was found to be most depressing, as somehow the whole combination gave a stronger impression of departed greatness, than anything else in the desolate city, it commanded a view of every other building forming the group, but stood apart in lonely grandeur, seldom now disturbed by human footsteps, although possibly at one time there was sufficient excitement, when thousands ascended the latter mentioned staircase in perfect vigour of manhood to be cut open, their bleeding hearts torn from their palpitating bodies, and their worthless corpses hurled to the bottom.

Lying alone, between four and five hundred feet to the South-East of the House of the Governor, and represented by the letter "H" on the Map, are the remains of what is called La Casa de la Vieja, or the House of the Old Woman, which derives its name, from nothing more than a mutilated statue representing an old woman, that was found near it.

Over sixty years ago, when Stephens visited it, strong winds shook the entire walls, and it is reasonably possible by this time that a great part of them have collapsed.

From its position, it may be presumed that the building served as a guard house, but it is idle thinking on the subject, and there are no documents or details to justify any presumption.

With this, we finish our description of Uxmal, as no more information, other than what has been given

can be offered, in fact, further description would be prolix, as it is, the notes on this group, are very much longer, than we had any intention of offering, when we began our sketch.

XAMPON.

By consulting the Map, the position of this place will be seen, as from the fact that there being such a number of ruins in this immediate vicinity, individual description seems rather difficult and confusing. Here stands the remains of an edifice, which when entire, must have been grand and imposing, the form was rectangular, its four sides enclosing a hollow square, it measured North to South eighty feet, and from East to West one hundred and five feet. Two angles only remain, and they seem destined soon to fall.

The ruins of Hiokowitz were seen at the distance from Xampon, but they seemed so difficult of access, that no attempt was made to see them.

XCOCH.

This place is only a league from Nocacab, and has in its close vicinity ruins of buildings, and a mound eighty or ninety feet high, but the structure it once had on its top, has disappeared. In some places the remains of steps are visible. A lovely view of the ruins of Uxmal is to be had from the summit.

A great attraction is offered here, in its ancient well, which is said to lead to a vast subterranean cavern. The mouth or entrance which is almost impossible to

UXMAL. The Governor's Palace.

be found without a guide, is within a fine grove, and thickly surrounded by bushes, and in the centre of a cavity, about twenty or thirty feet deep, is the well in question, from which, a great current of air is said to continually ascend. Two hundred feet from the well, is a cavern, forty to fifty feet wide, and about twelve feet high, besides another vaulted chamber, supported by enormous stalacmite pillars, all giving a grand appearance, there is also a great chasm here, and a very large basin of water. In the bowels of the earth, there is said to exist an immense table of polished stone, and in a plaza with natural columns supporting a vaulted roof a profusion of sculptured figures are said to be found, besides it is affirmed that subterranean communication is established with Mani, a distance of twenty seven miles. All is considered well worth seeing, but is attended with a considerable amount of hard work.

XUL.

Nine leagues from Ticul, this village stands on the site of an aboriginal city, and the priest of the parish church pulled down a mound and levelled the land, building his house with the materials of which the mound had been composed, and had fixed in many conspicuos places various carved stones that he had found amongst the ruins, besides sixteen columns that had been taken from the ruins of Nocacab were put in the principal altar of his church, thus what had done service, probably for heathen temples, now occupy a prominent position in a Christian place of worship.

Other ruins exist in the neighbourhood of Xul, but they are in too great a state of dilapidation to be described, or afford the slightest interest, besides no name is attached to them.

ZAYIL.

About a mile and a half from the ranch of Chack, and a league from Kabah, in the jurisdiction of, and four leagues from Nocacab, and under the parochial charge of Ticul, besides being found in the accompanying Skeleton Map, lies buried in the depths of a very thick forest, a great tree covered mound of surprising dimensions, not only in itself, but of the trees that grow upon it. A path having been cut, and considerable clearing effected, an immense pile of white stone buildings was exposed, to which the indians of the neighbourhood gave the name of the Casa Grande, it well deserved its name as it consists of three great ranges of immense proportions constituting a grand spectacle, and a great surprise, as it is the last place any person would ever expect to find such a structure.

In the centre of the building, are the dilapidated remains of what was once a grand staircase, thirty two feet wide, and rising to the platform of the highest terrace, but all is to a great extent destroyed.

The lowest of the three ranges measures two hundred and sixty feet in front and one hundred and twenty feet in depth, it had sixteen doorways, each opening into apartments consisting of two rooms each, the second range was two hundred and twenty feet long by sixty feet in depth, and had four doorways on either side of the great staircase, the only opening remaining was on the left, and was divided into three separate entrances by two roughly made columns, six feet six inches long, capped with square quarried stones, similar to the Doric order, but wanting in the usual grandeur generally connected with that ancient classification. The building on the third range was one hundred and fifty feet long by eighteen feet deep, and had a platform thirty feet wide in front, and another twenty five feet wide behind. The lintels over the doors were of

SAYIL. Temple and palace.

stone, which may account for the buildings being in a better state of preservation than many others, although as we say they are very far gone.

Between the first and second, and third and fourth doorways, on the second range, a small staircase leads to the terrace of the third range, when on being ascended, a platform is found in front, and another in the rear, of the dimensions given in the last paragraph, both running naturally the entire length of the roof of the second flight. This floor has seven apartments, each with its respective doorway. The exterior of the third or highest range, was of an elaborate description. Among the designs, was one which appeared in other groups, representing a man supporting himself on his hands with his legs expanded in a more curious than delicate attitude. The platforms of all the ranges are wider in front than behind. The distribution of the apartments or chambers is very irregular, for instance, on the lower tier are found sixteen doorways, opening into apartments of two chambers each. The whole front having fallen in nothing can be learned, but the two ends of this range have each six doorways, and in the rear ten, opening into apartments all in ruinous condition. Filling up the spaces between the doorways, were four small columns, close together, all sunk into the wall, and curiously ornamented.

The apartments varied from ten to twenty three feet in length, and in the North side of the second range is a curious and unaccountable feature, called the Casa Cerrada, or the closed house, having ten doorways all closed up with stone and mortar, it is the general opinion that the place contained hidden treasure, but the truth of this was investigated, and found to be without foundation, and that ten apartments in all, aggregating two hundred and twenty feet long by ten feet deep, had apparently been filled up simultaneously with the original erection of the buildings, and can only

be supposed with the object of aiding in strengthening the foundations, to better support the upper structure.

Other buildings, in a more or less ruinous condition, were said to be in the neighbourhood, and only about five hundred feet away, but as we infer all were in the last stages of devastation, nothing afforded the slightest interest, or was to be gained by going further into detail, we have been long enough in Zayil, and must move on elsewhere.

Connected with the above place, Stephens records a very notable anomaly, he states that a part of this country, inhabited exclusively by indians, and they, as we have said, of the most backward class, and timid at the sight of foreigners, have introduced into their community, a modern system of co-operation, but whether the idea was strictly original, or presented to their attention by some foreign means, he does not say, but the least that can be said about it is that such progress is little expected to be found here. This statement has not been confirmed by any other writer.

It is a relief, to meet at last, with groups of ruins, that are not responsible, so to speak, or owe their existence to Mr. John L. Stephens for having brought them to public notice, for up to the present time, he has been the only authority from whom we could cull the slightest information.

In the present instance, we are alluding to a group of ruins, that were discovered by Mr Edward H. Thompson, the recent very able Consul of the United States, at Progreso, who has been in this neighbourhood for nearly a quarter of a century, but who came here for the special purpose of following his profesion as Archaeologist, since his arrival, and subsequent appointment as Consul, he has dedicated all his spare time to his studies, pertaining to the archaeology of Yucatan, thereby

SAYIL.

1. Palace temple.

2. Broken slab of god Ketsalcoatl.

acquiring such a knowledge of the subject, as is possessed by no other living person.

The ruins to which we now refer are named.

XKICHMOOL,

which consist of ten distinct edifices, and several mounds, they are situated six leagues South of Xul, about one hundred and forty miles South of Merida, and forty to fifty miles to the East of Campeche, they lie in a narrow valley, between a series of rocky hills, and to which access is gained by precipitous paths over the hill sides, and then through the beds of arroyos generally dry, but sometimes quite the reverse, all constituting an extremely difficult approach. An immense terraced incline partly artificial, announces proximity to something out the common, commencing with a series of ruined steps, flanked by walled embankments which extend upward at a moderate angle, until at a distance of one hundred and eighty seven feet from the base, a terrace, which proved to be, one of several, was reached.

As it was intended at the commencement, to produce a pamphlet, which has now assumed the dimensions of a book, it is with serious apprehension that we notice its increasing size, we must therefore from now on, make our notes in the fewest possible words.

We accompany these particular observations with some photographs, that were taken by the discoverer, which, in themselves, will show the utter impossibility of being described in detail.

The principal edifice, called as usual the Palace by the natives, is a very imposing structure, sixty four feet in height, which added to sixteen feet, the height of the terrace on which it stands, places the whole an elevation

of eighty feet above the surrounding level, while its massive Northern walls gives it the appearance of a great fortress.

It is of composite design, forming with its two wings, three sides of an irregular enclosure, the principal façade is partially destroyed, and all the other buildings show markedly the ravages of time.

The central portion of this edifice, of which a view is given, is a massive pile, fully sixty feet in height, on the top of which is found an apartment, which was presumably used as a ku or shrine, and to which a wide staircase, faced with carved stone ornaments, and occupying nearly the whole Southern front, gives access. But with respect to the other edifices, several photographs of which are given, a perfect absence of any object of interest, renders any description unnecessary. It should however be added, that apartments which are found on either side of the staircase in the main building, remain still in a fair state of preservation.

The series of views depicting the edifices constituting the ruins of Xkichmool. which word, by the bye, means in the Maya language, the buried beauty, are taken from a pamphlet, issued by the Field Columbian Museum, in which publication the different edifices are described in an exhaustive manner.

Perhaps the best way to approach these ruins, would be, to proceed to Tecax, a Station on the Peto Railway, one hundred and six kilometres from Merida, from where, the present time table tells us, the train leaves at 3.30 p. m,, arriving at Tecax at 6.35 p. m., when arrangements can be made for transportation to the ruins

YAKALXIO. Small palace.

ZEKILNA.

The ruins of this place, about fifteen kilometres to the South East of Uxmal, apparently denote them to have belonged to nothing more important than a shrine, and are uninteresting. No allusion is made to them in any other work than Stephens, who tersely remarks that he had been told that a building containing an altar for burning copal was in the neighbourhood, and which on investigation, certainly bore evidence of having been used for that purpose by the ancient inhabitants.

To get to the place, he was told that on arriving at a certain spot on the road, he should turn off, but the native who was with him had difficulty in discovering any signs of a path, but eventually on finding it, he had to cut through a heavy bush, and clear away every step, they came to a broken stony acclivity, which on ascending the other side, a closely wooded hollow was crossed subsequently an ascent for the second time was made, when the remains of a lofty stone structure was found, but in many parts its walls had fallen, leaving only a mound strewed with stones, many of which were sculptured, the whole forming a scene of irrevocable ruin and desolation. Very little difference existed to similar ruins existing elsewhere, but this instance all had ceased to afford the slightest interest.

CENOTES.

Although coming continually across this word in these pages, a descriptive paragraph dedicated to the special subject, will be found unique, curious and interesting.

It has already been stated that this term is bestowed indiscriminately, whether upon open holes in the ground, or underground caves, but this is decidedly incorrect, as open holes are properly called "aguadas," or as in Biblical writ, "pools" so without room for discussion, the true acceptation is an underground cave of water, although the term has been applied even to "where waters appear to the light of day."

Cenotes are to be found in many parts of the State, a few of which, can only be alluded to here. The natural beauty of some of these is very striking, for instance, taking that of Mucuyché, on the road to Uxmal, with its roof of broken over-hanging rock, impenetrable to the sun's rays and therefore always cool, covered with all forms of stalactites imaginable, with water as clear a crystal, still and deep, and resting on a bed of white lime stone rock. Stephens was enraptured, he called it the very creation of romance, a bathing place for Diana and her nymphs, and remarks Grecian poet never imagined so beautiful a scene, it seemed like profanation, but in a few minutes he and his companions were swimming around the rocky basin, with feelings of boyish exultation, and only regretting that such a freak of nature was placed where so few could enjoy its beauties.

But when nature is assisted by art, the result is indescribably beautiful, as has been demonstrated in the cenote of Zodzil, "The Bat's Cave," a beautiful country residence, about eight miles from Merida, on the Progreso Road, and belonging to the recent Governor of the State, Don Olegario Molina, the combination of the

LOLTUN. Inscriptions in one of the chambers.

two attributes, nature and art, found here was truly marvellous, the effect caused by hundreds of little coloured bulbs of electric light, suspended from the rugged roof of the spacious cavern, being fed by wire from above was exquisite, the conception made a perfect picture, and the beauty of it, particularly called the attention of, and quite enchanted the President's wife, when she and her husband were here in February 1906.

The subject of water in Yucatan is very peculiar and paradoxical, from the fact that although apparently there is not any to be seen in the State, still there is plenty to be had, there are no surface rivers, but underground streams of rather hard water are in abundance. The whole State is one vast table-land of coral rock, below which stratum flows large streams and even rivers whose course is directed in a Northerly direction, that is towards the sea. Dr Gaumer, an American authority, practising at Izamal, affirms that communication exists between these underground bodies of water, by the fact,that he has seen small alligators in a cenote one day, which suddenly disappear, only to take up temporary abode in some other locality. These currents break out continually into caves, caverns or grottoes, and although the effect of earthquakes has never been noticeably felt in Yucatan, still some people attribute the cenotes or caves to earthquake, or subterranean disturbances, and the enlargement to the pressure of water, either horizontally or from surface filtration, into already existing crevices in the coral rock.

The depth to the stratum of water which as has been said is to be found in almost any part of the State, naturally differs, but in the neighbourhood of the City of Merida it is about twenty five feet, and to gain it, the softness of the rock makes boring practically easy, wherever a pipe is sunk water is found, and it is a remarkable thing to notice, and try to count the number of windmills that can be seen from the towers of the cathedral, being the most elevated places in the City,

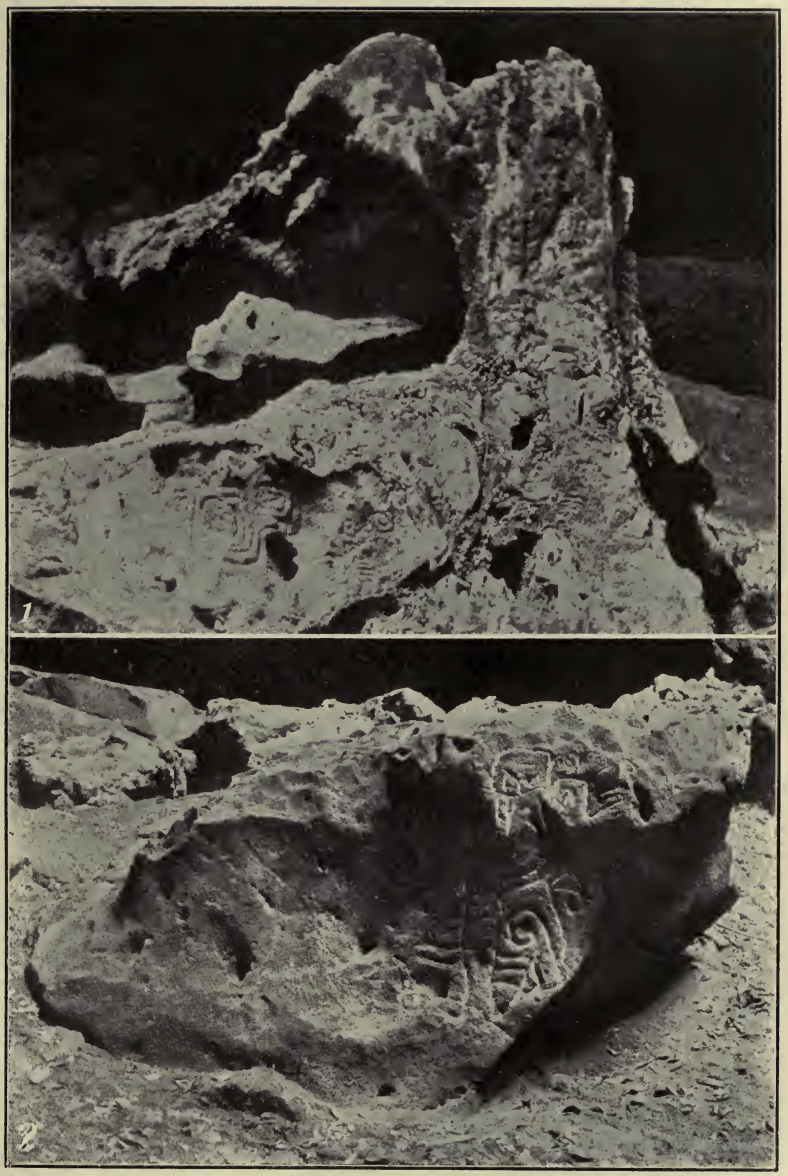
on a clear day. We have been told that over three thousand have been counted, but we are inclined to to think that estimate is decidedly below the mark.

When the whole State is taken into consideration, the number in the aggregate must be immense. It is said that the Aermotor Company of Chicago have been very interested in Yucatan, and from appearances we should imagine they were justly so.

We read that the early Indians originally marked on the surface, with heaps of stones, the courses of the important subterranean water-ways, and frequently the location of their towns was determined by the abundance of these streams of water, or the existence of a cenote sufficiently large to supply the wants of a special community.

A word should be said about their size and depth, we have seen them occupying an area of as much as sixteen hundred square feet, but it is stated, that there are much larger ones to be found in the State. They vary very much in depth, from one foot to much more, it is said that the cenote at Mukuyché is forty feet deep, offering a tempting spot for a swim, consequently although the waters of this cenote, are used for potable purposes by the entire locality, still the perhaps disagreeable idea, that might possibly occur to a more punctilious community, is here fortunately waved, and the precious fluid thereby serves a double purpose, we must in fairness add that the objectionable thought is decidedly minimised by the fact that there is a flow, although the same is not apparent.

Frequently of a very hot day, the cenote serves for the purpose of the village play-ground, where the boys and young men congregate for amusement, and it is said that school-boys often play truant, and pass hours at a time, disporting in the cool waters, when they ought to be attending to their studies. All said and done, one can hardly blame them, when the sun is blisteringly hot above ground.



LOLTUN.

1. Various inscriptions in the caves.
2. Inscriptions in one of the caves.

Many blind fish are found in the Mukuyché cenote similar it is said, to those seen in the Mammoth Cave.

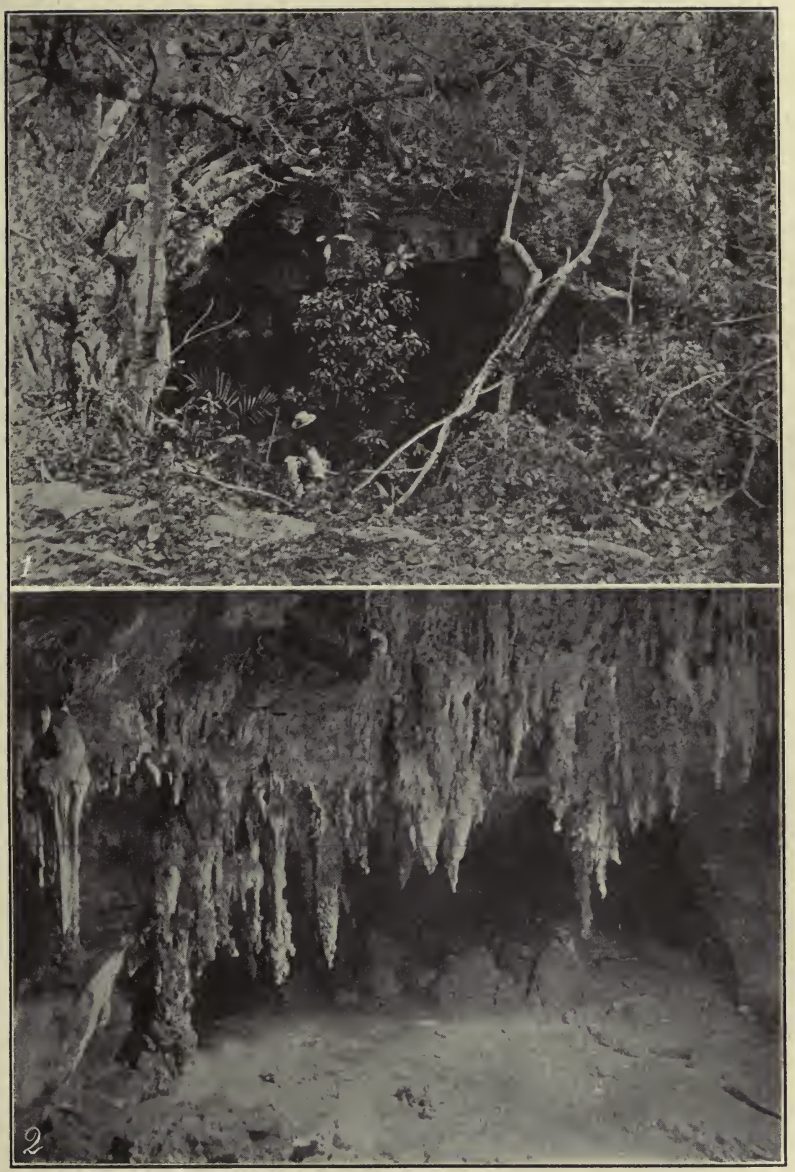
One of the largest cenotes in the State, is in the neighbourhood of Mayapan, 47 kilometres from Merida, on the Peto Railway, at the village of Telchaquillo, with a population of about a thousand souls. In the square of this little place, is a great cenote or subterranean well, which supplies all the inhabitants with water. At a distance, the spot seemed level and unbroken, but women walking across it, carrying canteros or water jars, suddenly disappeared, and others seemed to rise out of the earth. On a nearer approach, a great orifice or opening in the ground was found, and exposing the rocky character of Yucatan, appeared like the mouth of a cave. The descent was made by irregular steps cut and worn in the rock. Over head was an immense rocky roof, and at a distance of perhaps five hundred feet from the mouth, was a large basin or reservoir of water, directly over this water the roof was perhaps sixty feet in height, and there was an opening in it that threw down a strong body of light. The water had apparently no current, and its source was a mystery to the inhabitants. During the rainy season it rises a little, but never falls below a certain point, and at all times is the only source of supply to the inhabitants.

Also in the same neighbourhood, we stopped near a great cave that had only lately been discovered, and which they said had no end, ten men having worked for four hours, without being able to find an outlet, and no robber's cave ever mentioned in a romantic story could equal it in wildness of appearance. The cave, with its basin, roof and passages were of an immense fossil formation. Marine shells were agglomerated together in solid masses, many of them perfect, showing a geological structure which indicated that the whole country, or at least a large portion of it, had once been, and probably at no very remote period, overflowed by the sea.

Another famous cenote, one of the deepest in the State, and which has been known and used, from time immemorial, is at Motul, a Station on the Valladolid line, 45 kilometres from Merida, the water in it can be seen by looking down a hole or well, but access to a very dark and gloomy chamber, infested by swarms of bats and lizards, is obtained through another and larger hole. It is said not to be a pleasant place in which to bathe, but being cool and dark, is a refreshing contrast from the fierce heat and light outside. Ober in his work, refers to a strange bird called a Toh, in the Maya tongue, and belonging to the Momotus species, that lives in these cenotes, he says it is about a foot in length, with fine silky feathers and a very curious tail, which are stripped nearly to the tip, only the naked shafts remaining.

There is said to be a Cenote at the town of Tabi, not far from ruins of Chichen Itzá, and therefore on the Valladolid line, in the centre of which town, at mid-day when the sun is his zenith, the image of a most beautiful palm tree appears on the water. Cogolludo the noted Spanish clerical historian, who is considered a veritable authority, and whose works are eagerly sought and copied, under date of 1665, writes that at Tecoh, which is 33 kilometres from Merida, on the Peto Railway, there is a cenote in which no person is desirous of bathing, purely from the fact that he is sure to die unless he holds his breath on entering it, which precaution possibly some may forget to take. There is a local idea existing, that any noise, even that made by breathing, causes an excessive commotion to be made in the water, a noise that has a poisoning influence, and which has caused the death of many Indians while drawing water from it.

We could go much further into this matter of Cenotes, but think that enough has been said to thoroughly describe the peculiar phenomenon.



LOLTUN.

1. Principal entrance to cave.
2. Stalactites and inscription chamber.

When writing upon the subject of water, it may be stated, that rain water is carefully preserved in the more important houses throughout the State, and preference is very naturally given to it for household purposes, every house of the better class is supplied with its "algibe" pronounce alhibe, or reservoir, and its dimensions are generally sufficient for the necessities of the respective house requirements for the year's consumption, or until the recurrence of the rainy season, the algibes of the Gran Hotel are situated under the two patios, and have a capacity of more than two hundred and fifty thousand gallons. A considerable busines is done by carting rain water throughout the City, and peddling it to people who have no means of saving the precious fluid, a good price for potable water is thereby obtained. Many persons drink the well water, apparently with impunity, but it is understood the risk is immense, water from that source being heavily impregnated with animal matter.

An American syndicate, calling themselves The Merida Yucatan Water Company, has recently obtainned a concession to lay pipes through the City, many streets were supplied, and a large amount of money was spent, a fine pumping apparatus, stand-pipe, etc, having been erected, but at the last moment, when everything was ready, and the plant blessed by the Archbishop, delay in the distribution was experienced, as the absolute purity of the water had not been established to the satisfaction of the local Board of Health, the water was undergoing severe tests, and analysis being made at various laboratories, the result was naturally awaited with great interest, which it was hoped would be satisfactory in every way, although the prospects at the moment were by no means encouraging.

Since the above writing all opposing elements have been removed, and everything is now working in an excellent manner, and giving perfect satisfaction.

It has just occurred to us, that persons visiting Merida, and only with limited time at their disposal, can obtain a very good idea of an average Cenote, by going to the Tivoli, on the right hand side of 45th Street, between 62nd and 64th Streets, and also by seeing another which is near the end of the route of the Industrial Line of Street Cars, or more precisely at Nº 464, 42nd Street, between 43rd and 45th Streets. Naturally there are others, but they are on private property, and in obtaining permission to view them, petty annoyances often arise, verbum sapienti.

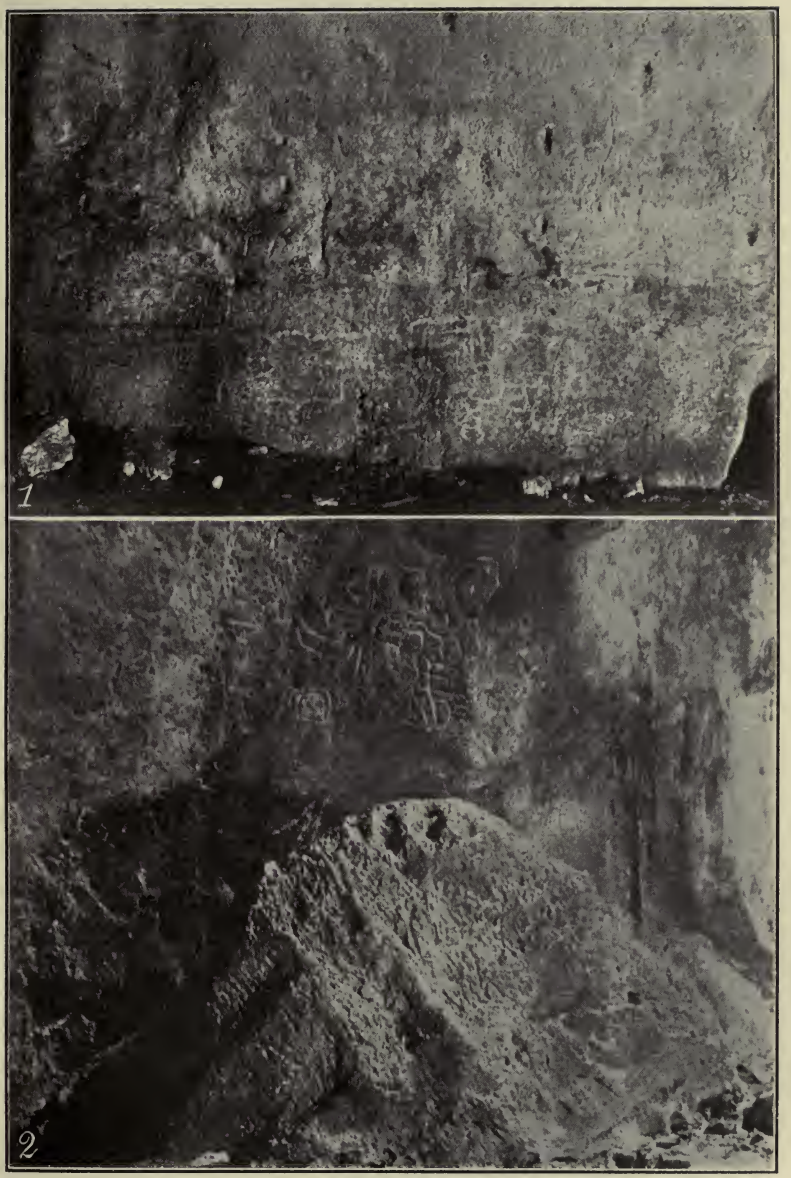
Relative to the above local Cenotes, a curious phenomenon is exhibited by the above, as they lie at a distance af 1200 metres apart, in almost a straight line East and West, that is with only half a block variation, the writer could not test whether communication existed between one and the other, for if such did exist, difficulty would arise in reconciling the fact with the theory that the subterranean waters ran at right angles, or due North, towards the Gulf.

THE CAVE OF LOLTUN.

This cave is situated a league to the East of Tabi, to which hacienda reference has already been made.

The Cave of the Flowers of Stone, is the poetical name given to it by the natives, and deserves to be better known, we regret that we must treat the subject in a very cursory manner as we have already exceeded our specified limits, only adding, that with time, no doubt the place will deservedly become a noted centre of attraction. We have heard a traveller stating that the considered its beauties more alluring than the noted and incomparable ruins.

The cave contains tortuous and lengthy passages



LOLTUN.

1. Inscriptions in one of the chambers.
2. In the caves, notable hieroglyphics.

leading to endless chambers and grottoes, many of which latter are penetrated by the sun's rays, which together with the humidity of the surroundoings nourish numerous vines and innumerable sweet smelling flowers. We give a view of the entrance which leads to a beaten pathway, and to apparently ricketty ladders, but which nevertheless are firmly tied together by vines which as we say, grow abundantly in the bowels of the earth.

The place shows evidence of having been used as a refuge at various times, from the fact that numerous artificial barricades being found, besides many haltunes or hand made deposits for water, which percolates from above, these are of various capacity, and are found in the rock and stalagmites that abound.

We also give illustrations of hieroglhypics once deeply engraved on the internal walls but which are getting notably fainter day by day.

Many niches and cavities are to be seen, which suggest being the receptacles for the dead, although all such possible remains have disappeared.

In reluctantly concluding this paragraph, we strongly recommend tourists to make arrangements for seeing the place for themselves.

THE HOLY BLISTERED CHRIST.

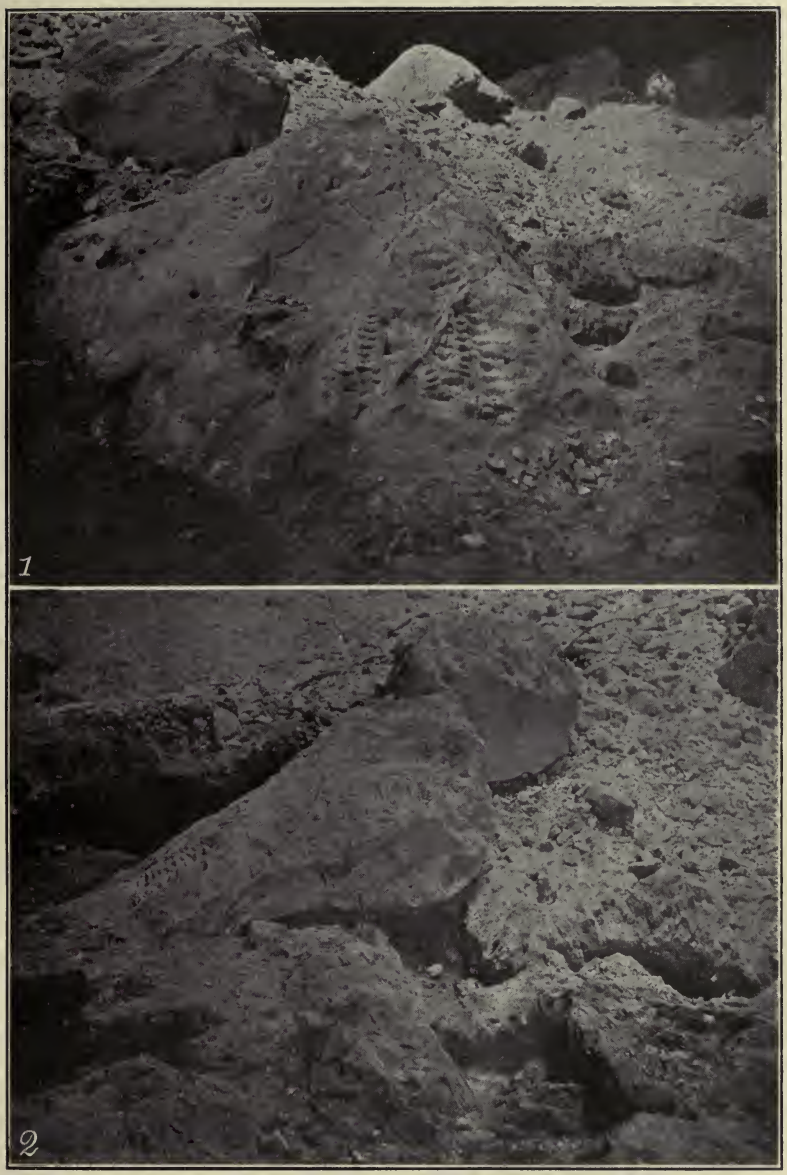
In a brochure, published under auspices of the Illustrious Archbishop of the diocese, in relation to the Holy Christ of the Ampollas, we learn that a cow-herd belonging to the village priest of Ichmul, a place situated about twenty kilometres beyond Peto, the present terminus of the Merida and Peto branch Railway, and one hundred and fifty eight kilometres from Merida, having seen on various Fridays, during Lent, some extraordinary lights in the woods, went, accompanied by a

learned man of the village, and seeing the tree from which the resplendent light appeared, cut it down thinking it uncanny, and carried the trunk to the rectory. There it remained some time, until one day a young sculptor appeared upon the scene, and on asking the cura for work, was commissioned to make an image of the Miraculous Conception out of the said trunk, but upon the sculptor suggesting that it was more suitable for a crucifix, he was instructed to make one, that being required also. He was shut up in a room assigned for the purpose and set to work; but upon the room being opened the following day, to see how he was getting on with his task, lo and behold! they found that the sculptor had disappeared, the crucifix finished, and as it were floating upright, without any visible means of support so to say; and more remarkable still, was the fact, that all refuse had disappeared also, and the apartment left immaculately clean.

The Image was immediately transferred to the Church, and as it had, from its incipiency become endowed with miraculous powers, all the Province flocked to see it.

In the year 1651, after a nine days special worship had been celebrated, the church was accidentally destroyed by fire, when everything of a combustible nature that in contained was reduced to ashes, and all metal objects were melted on account of the intensity of the heat, the stones of the edifice even were calcined, but the marvellous image was not affected in any other way than by being blistered. These blisters are to be seen to this day, as if confirming the statement, consequently no room for doubt can possibly exist, even in the minds of the most sceptical.

The parish priest and villagers not having any objection to its removal to the Cathedral of Merida, the Illustrious Bishop, Señor Luis Sifuentes, went to Ichmul brought the treasure to the Capital City, and in the year 1656, placed it on an altar in the Cathedral, but a



LOLTUN.

1. Various inscriptions inside the caves.
2. In the caves, showing various inscriptions.

man of the name of Lucas Villamil, having been instantly cured of leprosy by the Image, he, as a mark of his gratitude, built a special chapel for it in the same Cathedral, where it was placed, and where it is venerated to-day.

But neither the Bishop, in his desire to acquire the treasure for the Merida Cathedral, nor any of the others concerned, had reckoned whether the removal of the Image, would meet with the approval of the Señor of Ichmul, unfortunately such was not the case, as the sequel will show:

In the year 1699, the Image freed the Province of a terrible pestilence, the procession of Holy Monday was then established. It succoured the people from a grievous famine, and the feast of Exaltation and Fraternity was organised with many indulgences attached. An epidemic of Yellow Fever visited the place, and in a procession a representative from each convent died, when the contagion disappeared. A scourge of locusts and hunger then visited Merida, but the prayers offered by the illustrious bishop Diego Pereda, caused the anger of the Señor of Ichmul to be appeased throughout the whole neighbourhood.

The annual devotions dedicated to the Image, take place on the 29th of September, and following days, and it is confidently stated that fully Two thousand dollars go into the coffers of the Cathedral, one guild, of which there are many in the City, vying with one another, in the richness of their observances.

On the 15th of July 1717, Pope Clement XI, bestowed his approval, and conceded indulgences.

From a mundane point of view, almost as much jollity is noticed in the City during the nine days devotions as at the Carnaval, a would be feast of considerable importance and boisterous revelry, but distinctly of a decadent character, to judge from the results of the last few years.

THE YUCATECAN.

From an ethnological point of view, the difference between the lower orders of the Yucatecans and the Mexicans is very striking, this peculiarity being so great that in no other part of the Republic can the type of the Yucatecan Mestizo be seen, the Spaniards found the Mayas their progenitors a finer body of men, and much more difficult to conquer than the fierce Aztecs of Central Mexico, and even after they were reduced to submission, it was found that hunger and civil war were in reality the principal factors in effecting their rendition, besides it having taken fully twenty years of hard fighting before they were actually overcome. There are remnants of the descendants of this ancient people still existing in Quintana Roo, that are at the present moment in arms against the Government, but as it is stated elsewhere in this paper, it is safe to say that it is only a matter of time, when all will become peace abiding citizens.

The intelligence of the average indian being generally considered of so low an order, demands that it should be recorded that not only did the Mayas distinguish themselves as men of war, for we read that some indians were notable for using their writing materials as well as their fighting implements, to wit Gaspar Xiu, who not only acted as royal interpreter, but was author of various important works, which unfortunately have been lost.

Various other characteristics are described in this article, particularly their notable honesty and notably that the popular and mythical San Lunes, or Saint Monday, who in Mexico has numerous votaries, or in other words, those who do not work on Mondays, as they require that day to get over their drunken sabbath day debauch, is a trait never to be seen in Merida, where as many people work on Mondays as on any other

YUCATAN.

1. A typical Maya Indian family.
2. Group of Mestizo family.

day of the week, this in itself speaks greatly in their favour, besides which the pulque den of Mexico, or its equivalent, is unknown here, and as has been said elsewhere, drunkenness is seldom or never seen.

The mestizos of Merida, the prevailing race, as far as physical and intellectual qualities are concerned, rank equal, in a similar station, to those in any part of the world, and the moral tone of the community in general, is of a higher order than is found in many other countries, the men are generally a fine looking stalwart race who besides being fond of athletics and amusements generally, are occupied in the usual diversity of trades, and excel in their various branches of industry, while the women the handsomest of their class in Mexico, with their large lustrous black eyes, abundant and quaintly arranged hair, rich heavy gold necklaces and perfectly shaped feet and hands, besides possessing lithe graceful, exquisitely formed figures, are invariably greatly admired, they are besides, a gentle, docile race, cleanly in habit and remarkably honest; and with regard to the higher class, their personal attractions being of high order, many foreigners have fallen victims to their charms, some marrying into the best families.

Alluding to those of higher standing, a yucatecan gentleman can hold his own with those of any country, and possesses more or less the characteristics and proclivities as to be met with elsewhere, as a rule he is well read, and can talk intelligently on the current topics of the world, the associated press telegrams being published here daily, which are perused with avidity.

But with respect to the female community, the same traits of character prevail in all stations, high or low, rich or poor, whose love of home and care with which she rears her progeny, is particularly noticeable and commendable, her exemplary life and strict sense of rectitude in general calling for admiration, some of the houses are ideal in their appointments, and hardly a

residence of any pretensions is to be found in Merida, that does not possess a piano.

From another point of view, it is very clear that the Yucatecans pay more attention to their clothes, than is done in many parts of the country, the latest London and Paris fashions are always in evidence, both ladies and gentlemen frequently getting their raiment from those centres.

A few historical notes will not be out of place at this juncture.

The union of the State of Yucatan with the rest of the Republic is comparatively of very recent date, it having been, to the great joy of the people, permanently effected on the 17th of August, 1848, the proclamation announcing the confederation was received with gratitude and great rejoicing, as the State was hard pressed with unruly Indians, consequently when the right hand of fellowship and assistance was held out by the Federal Government, it was gladly seized, and all differences that had hitherto separated them was settled amicably and forgotten.

Early in the eighteenth century, 1700-1746, during the reign of Philip V of Spain, the Vice-roy of Mexico then in power, proposed the subjugation of the Province of Yucatan to his dominion, but the proposition was firmly and almost indignantly opposed, Yucatan desiring at that moment to remain directly subject to the King of Spain, and subsequently so much history was made which applies directly to the matter, that to make the state of affairs perfectly intelligible, we must request the reader to follow us in the details now given:

We read in early that in the reign of Carlos V, then King of Spain, Francisco de Montejo (son) the General in command of the Spanish invading army, defeated the forces under the Maya King, Titul-Xiu, who surrendered on the 23rd of January 1541, from which date the Spanish domination of the country commenced, and then remained in force for two hun-

dred and eighty years, that is to say, from 1541 until 1821, during which period ten monarchs had been on the Spanish throne, and seventy vice-roys representing that country, being immediately subject to the crown of Castile.

But in the year 1821, one of the most important in the history of the country, Iturbide, the military commander, appointed by the Vice-roy, to the charge of the Southern zone, although a Mexican, and born in the country, had no desire to see a Republican form of government in Mexico. He proclaimed the Plan of Iguala on the 24th of February of that year, the essential points of which plan, were, the conservation of the Roman Catholic Church to the exclusion of all other denominations, the Independence of Mexico as a moderate monarchy with some member of the reigning house of Spain on the throne, and the amicable union of Mexicans and Spaniards, these three clauses were styled the three guarantees, and formed the origin of the Mexican flag, adopted a little later, the three colours representing the three articles of the national faith, Green typifying the union of Spaniards and Mexicans, White meaning religious purity, and Red typical of Independence.

Another important event that occurred in the month of September of the same year, 1821, were the ancient provinces of Spain, and which formed the so-called Mexican Federation, severing their allegiance with Spain and declaring their independence; one of them however, Guatemala, did not keep her independence long, for on the 5th of January, 1822 she decided to return to and form part of Mexico. which country almost immediately after became an Empire, but on the lst of July 1823, Guatemala and her neighbouring provinces were unanimous in declaring themselves independent of all other countries, Spain, Mexico, or what not, and forming a confederacy, which was called the United Provinces of Central America, the union only

remained in force until the 17th of April 1839, when Guatemala became an independent State, and when Spain practically lost all her colonies in this country and Central America.

Although the "Grito of Dolores" the cry of independence, shouted by Padre Hidalgo, (whose effigy is to be seen on the new gold coinage) the priest of Dolores, a small place in the State of Guanajuato, on the 16th of September 1810, and perpetuated annually by the President of the Republic, from the centre balcony of the Executive Palace in the City of Mexico, ever since, still it was the 24th of February 1822, before the first Congress of the Mexican Republic was convened; the time intervening having been occupied by various engagements, in which the Royalists were generally successful. On most of the patriots having been captured and executed, the cause languished, and with the exception of a little desultory fighting, nothing was effected.

On the 19th of May 1822, Congress elected Iturbide, (before mentioned) Emperor, by a vote of sixty seven to fifteen, and on the 21st of July of the same year, he was anointed and crowned, with great solemnity at the Cathedral in Mexico City, as Agustin I, Emperor of Mexico.

On the 6th of December 1822, General Santana, while in Veracruz, proclaimed the Republic of Mexico.

On the 4th of March 1823, Iturbide seeing that the fates were against him, resigned, but his resignation was not accepted by Congress, as it was stated his election had not been valid, in spite of the above vote. He was banished from the country with a life annuity of twenty five thousand dollars. Not knowing when he was well off and leaving well alone, he wrote from England offering his services to his country, to which proposal a decree was promulgated, declaring that if he returned he would be considered a traitor and be put to death. Not knowing of this decree, he did

1. Group of Maya Indians.

2. YAXCHE. East Façade of palace.

return and landed in disguise, in July 1824, but being recognised, he was arrested, tried, condemned, and shot on the 19th of the same month

On the lst of January 1825, the first Constitutional Congress was convened, in which year the Republic of Mexico received the formal recognition of both England and the United States. Overtures were then made also by Yucatan to join the Union, she still being independent at the time, but only on certain stipulations, dictated by Yucatan, being acceded to and approved of, although abolished shortly afterwards by the Federal Government. Upon this taking place, Yucatan again declared her independence, as she recently had been noticing that the Federal Government had been slowly tightening her grasp, and becoming much more in arbitrary procedure. The fact of collecting an unjust share of the Customs, besides interfering too much with what purely belonged to the State, added to the circumstance that her soldiers were being sent of fight in the war with Texas, with which State she was in treaty at the time with a view of obtaining her protection against invasion by Mexico, precipitated the action. The Government upon this, determined to bring Yucatan to blind submission, and between 1842 and 1843, sent an expedition of eleven thousand soldiers to compel her allegiance.

In the civil war that ensued, the Federal troops got more than they had bargained for in one way and another, and in consequence capitulated, having experienced some bitter opposition. On the 14th of December 1843, steps were taken by Yucatan to effect a reconciliation, strictly upon the basis of the stipulations laid down in 1825, which although agreed to, was in an incredible manner broken by the Federal Government in February 1844, only three months afterwards, when the compact of December was declared incapable of duration. Yucatan in her turn, declared the chains binding her to Mexico were broken.

But fate seemed to decree against her preserving her independence, for unexpected reverses immediately followed, that is in the year 1847, attributable to the second rising of the Indians. which was greatly to be feared, the experiences gained by the first rising in 1761 being bitterly known to many, and causing the State to be so hard pressed, that greatly to the joy of the community, she abandoned her autonomy, and entered gladly into the Union.

But in spite of her adversities, time having cicatrised her wounds and reconciled misunderstandings, the following paragraphs will demonstrate the excellent character and nature of the inhabitants of Yucatan:

In February 1906, on the memorable visit paid to Merida, by the President of the Republic, General Porfirio Diaz, prior to leaving the Metropolis, he had been strongly advised, and even begged by other parts of the Republic, not to think of going to Yucatan, as many Mexicans having formed a very unjust idea of her people, besides perhaps remembering that there might be reasonable cause for enmity to still smoulder in their minds, being in perfect ignorance of the true character of the Yucatecans, imagined there was a possibility of his being insulted or assaulted while here, the importance of which conjecture was materially accentuated, when the great distance from the Metropolis was taken into consideration.

The result was very different to their espectations, for he came, he saw, and conquered the hearts of all, or nearly all he met, by his well known genial manner, and very probably, if ever the President would write an autobiography of his life, (which work, by the by, would be more than usually interesting), it would be found, that he considered his visit to Yucatan, one of the happiest experiences of his eventful career, and that he was greatly impressed with the law and order, that prevails here, in the strictest acceptation of the terms.

In this connection, it may perhaps be opportune to remark, that Merida is one of the best policed cities in the world, as besides having numerous foot police, a large number of mounted men are patroling the city all night, coming on duty at 8 p. m., and remaining until day-break, it must be easily understood that this latter detail was not prompted by prevalence of crime, but was originally established on the outbreak of the Indians, and has now become a permanent institution. Although the force has repeatedly shown itself to be particularly apt and quick at detection, the policy is obviously more for the prevention than detection of crime.

The majority of Yucatecans, the Mestizos, the offspring from the union of Spanish and Indian, are considered by many, to be the handsomest race to be found in any part of the Republic, the lower orders are notably clean in their habits, it is said, never going without one or two baths daily, a trait so very apparent that the average visitor is forcibly impressed, especially when he remembers what a pronounced contrast exists in the Metropolis and other parts of the Republic. Here they are honest to a degree, and manly, other distinctive features, and notably different to the generality of Mexicans in a similar sphere to be found elsewhere. They are greatly given to athletics and games, especially in Base ball, in which they excel, having been originally coached by American Professionals, and several clubs of no mean order existing, a very interesting and well contested game to obtain the local championship, when unlimited enthusiasm prevails, is to be seen at the grounds at Itzimná on Sunday afternoons frequently during the season, which invariably proves a rich harvest for the street cars, that go direct to the gates of the grounds that belong to them.

Besides the above mentioned inherent qualities, drunkenness is seldom, if ever seen. During our long residence in Merida, we never saw a person under the

influence of liquor, besides which the moral tone in general is much above the average. The following that occurred in our time, is typical:

A burglary took place in the Cathedral, when a large number of precious jewels and ornaments were stolen, the police was immediately notified, and upon hearing particulars, spontaneously pronounced the sacrilege to be the work of foreigners; remarking at the same time, that natives of Merida were incapable of such heinous desecration, they were right in their deductions the crime having been committed by Spaniards, who managed to leave the State, but were subsequently all arrested in Vera Cruz, and the stolen property recovered.

Although nearly four centuries have passed since this territory was subjugated, the people still retain many of their ancient customs, especially the style of dress of the period antecedent to the conquest, this applies to both male and female, their dress is invariably spotlessly white, and a dirty Yucatecan Mestizo would indeed be a phenomenon, he or she being notably self-respecting in the matter of cleanliness.

The female dress, we are told, consists merely of one, or sometimes two petticoats, called justanes, pronounced hoostanes, and an outer garment, practically a chemise, but bearing the name of epeel, which is frequently elaborately embroidered by hand, but more generally adorned by strips of an ordinary quality, printed in Manchester, England, from where it is largely imported for the especial purpose, it is bought by the yard, and merely sewn on, giving a pretty effect. Necklaces, or as they are called collares, pronounced coyares, or rosaries are invariably worn, some of which are extremely handsome and very valuable, being together with their earrings, handed down from one generation to another, and frequently added to in transit. They repeatedly wear shoes of peculiar design, elegantly ornamented or embroidered, and finished in

YUCATAN.

1. A representative Meztizo trio.

2. Two pretty Meztizas.

leather or coloured satin on their stockingless feet, but in general those extremities are left bare. A bright ribbon in their hair, and all covered by a silk rebozo, or scarf of some pretty colour, gives a finish to a very elegant costume, it is even said, that a young lady who had visited Yucatan, once appeared at a Fancy Ball in England, in the native costume she had procured while in the country, and it was considered the prettiest in the room, and the greatest hit of the evening.

The place to see the Mestizos to advantage, is at a Carnaval ball, where the belles and beaux congregate in all the glory of their peculiar native costume, and in their native dances as a rule they are graceful, and many of the females are very beautiful and extremely modest, but this latter characteristic predominates in all their actions, rarely is any rudeness or unpleasant behaviour noticeable, no people are more pleasant or possessed of more agreeable manners than the Yucatecos in general, in fact an American once remarked that they might be taken as models of propriety to be studied with advantage in any part of the country. In all our peregrinations throughout the Republic, we never have seen a community that can approach them from any point of view.

The men's daily or working dress is protected from the waist down, by a species of apron, made of strong striped cotton material, evidently prepared for the purpose, and called, in both the spanish and maya languages, a delantal, this appendage has also been adopted very largely by the chinese, of which race there are many who live in this neighbourhood, in fact many of the celestials have cut off their pig-tails, and absorbed the customs and manners of the mestizos in so many instances, and being frequently of the same cast of countenance, that it is often difficult to distinguish between them, that is of course as long as they keep silent. The delantal or apron is invariably discarded on Sundays and feast days, when they appear in perfect white,

the trowsers are peculiarly characteristic, being very tight at the knees, and abnormally loose at the feet. Another very noticeable custom is, that although being in one of the hottest parts of the Republic, they wear an ordinary small straw or felt hat, the latter largely supplied by Christy, London, which is more remarkable when compared with the distinctly exaggerated headpiece worn in other and cooler parts of the country.

The better class are all or nearly all Hacendados, or farmers and very few persons of the category are to be found that are not in some way benefitted by the great product of the country Henequen, which has enriched Yucatan, or rather comparatively speaking, a chosen few, as can be seen by the accompanying Return, on page 16, nearly Four hundred millions of pesos, or say forty millions of pounds sterling, since the year 1880, prior to which date we are told the industry was not of much importance, and no reliable information is forthcoming.

Of course many members of the above class have chosen a professional life, instead of devoting themselves to agriculture, and numerous talented men are to be found among them, very bright lawyers have studied in the country, while doctors, surgeons and engineers have frequently graduated abroad. The local schools of jurisprudence and medicine are considered of a very high order.

Early training abroad, besides an innate taste for luxury, such as is encouraged by wealth, has dictated to the average farmer the desire to furnish his house in a sumptuous manner, many importing european furniturs and adornments, considering those commodities on sale in this country not sufficiently elegant for their eclectic wishes, in fact artistic embellishment including exhaustive private libraries of well chosen books, are frequently to be found in Merida residences, that will vie with any country in the world. There are to be found many who go abroad annually, turning their attention to

the fashionable centres of Europe and the United States, and who naturally absorb all that charms the eye and ear, to be transported to their Yucatan home, besides being conversant with the customs elsewhere. people are to be met continually in Yucatan who have been all over the European Continent many times, and who are therefore able to converse upon their travels with considerable fluency and enlightenment.

In a book written by a Mr Frederick Ober, an American, in the year 1884, a very conservative statement is given, about a trip he made to an hacienda we do not know to which hacienda he alludes, but we can conscientiously offer it as an example of what can be found any day in hospitable Yucatan, and although comparisons are odious, we cannot but compare his description with the style adopted by two travellers who have recently visited the country, upon which they have written, where their scurrilous remarks reek with spite, unreasonable and exaggerated criticism, ridicule and even uncalled for insult. They emphatically contradict Ober, who states one of the greatest delights in Yucatan, is the way in which the owner of an hacienda makes one welcome to his hospitality, there being no hotels in the country, this has become a necessity, and to which hacèndados gracefully submit. "We ascended the steps and were greeted, in the absence of the owner, by the mayordomo who showed us all over the house, and ordered breakfast immediately, a charming impromptu repast of tortillas, frijoles, eggs, oranges and chocolate, to which ample justice was done."

We know of hundreds of Englishmen and Americans who can vouch for the unqualified truth of the above, and could remark that they had been treated in the same way or even better, the best wines including champagne, often flow like water, and the quality of the viands offered would grace any aldermanic banquet, that is naturally when timely notice is given of anticipated visit, or on invitation, for as a rule many hacen-

dados are actuated with an idea that nothing is too good for their guests.

Ober continues. "The hacienda is a very large one, having thousands of acres planted in henequen, besides having great engines of the most modern design, busily at work crushing and rasping the leaves from which the precious fibre is abstracted, and attended to by ordinary indians, whose innate intelligence entitled them to the resposible positions offered, from the cutting to the baling of the fibre ready for exportation."

"Great stone corridors run round the house, and a broad alameda or shaded walk extends out to the gardens, here a score or more of women were drawing water from deep wells, reaching a cenote by an endless chain of bark buckets running over a large wheel, they were going and coming in procession, with large cantaros or earthen jars upon their hips. The water served to irrigate the garden, full of orange, coffee and cocoa palm trees. Without it the plain about would be a waste, with it, it blossomed like an oasis as it was. The lime rock crops up everywhere, and around the orange trees little brick walls have been built to retain the water, in mani places are high stone and arched gateways, and away on all sides stretch broad fields of henequen. Everybody seemed cheerful, busy, modest, and without a care or responsibility. After we had been made welcome, the head servants came up, and saluted us, and about twenty stalwart well made fellows came in, carrying huge bundles of grass on their backs, but the weight being borne by straps against their foreheads and with long machetes hanging at their sides, they put their loads down, and came to bid us good morning, bowing to us gracefully, all apparently considering themselves part of the establishment, and appreciating a visitor coming to see them."

The farms have numerous retainers, who are considered and who consider themselves part and parcel of the Estate, the best feeling of mutual confidence, as

1. CHUNYAXNIC. Temple.

2. CHANCHEN. Castle tower.

a rule, exists between the employer and the employed, to which latter, some writers have presumed to apply the term slaves, but in the sense of those described in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the idea is simply preposterous, as it is a well known fact, that not a soul works, that is not in receipt of his weekly wages, their health is looked after in careful manner, the services of a doctor, besides medicines, being always supplied gratis, add to this the fact, that the sick are often brought to the town residence of the hacendado, for change of air and diet, and where there is invariably a special apartment appropriated for an hospital, and frequently the lady of the house shows her solicitude and interest, by taking individual care of the sick, which attention is even extended to the labourer's children, who are often brought into town at the time of teething, so as to exclude, as far as in their power, all possible danger.

The rich Yucatecans when then wish to travel, usually turn their attention abroad, that is to Europe and the United States, the principal reason for the avoidance of the Metropolis, is that the climate is considered highly unhealthy for Yucatecans, the great extreme from sea level, to seven thousand eight hundred and forty nine feet above the sea, being considered too great, and liable to tend to pernicious effects, and which have been only too frequently and painfully experienced.

We had no intention of going so far into detail on the peculiarities and characteristics of the Yucatecan, but nevertheless hope that the information given may be of interest.

Our illustrations are from the best representative sources, and are in themselves strictly typical.

THE STATE OF CAMPECHE.

ALTHOUGH we commenced these Notes, with the intention of confining ourselves exclusively to the actual State of Yucatan, and with that object in view, collecting all the available data pertaining to that particular zone, still in the progress of the work, it became clear, that even in a cursory manner, it would be advisable to include the State of Campeche, and the Territory of Quintana Roo also, in relation to the subject matter of this sketch, as both originally belonged to Yucatan, and which addition would tend to make the description more interesting, and perhaps more useful, many places belonging to one or other of those districts being inadvertently visited, without attention being paid to boundaries, no such dividing points being visible, it would seem unreasonable when in the locality to attempt to discriminate to what political division the objective place calling our attention, or claiming our interest, actually belonged.

Besides Campeche, the chief town of State of the same name, offers so much interesting history, that it is difficult to choose what to cull, suitable to the limited space offered. It is one of the oldest cities in Mexico, essentially one of the past rather than of the present, although several recent additions, such as Electric Light and Power, Railway to Yucatan, Street Cars, and Telephone services are to be found.

It is the only walled city in the Republic, and offers endless stories of romance and peculiar interest, besides many things still remain suggestive of past glory.

It was against the pirates of the sixteenth century, that the walls were built, those restless buccaneers of English and Spanish blood, who chose the shallow waters of the Bay of Campeche as a safe haven from wind and weather while the thriving commerce of the

ACAMBALAM. East Façade of palace.

place awakened their avarice, besides from where they could command the route taken by the Spanish galleons from Vera Cruz, loaded with valuable cargoes, one of which we read was valued at nearly eighteen millions of dollars, bound for Cuba and Europe. The City had suffered a number of times from their incursions, having been looted three times in twenty six years, so the inhabitants largely aided by the Spanish government, resolved to secure themselves against further assault, by surrounding the city with walls and a moat, which bade defiance to the guns and attacks of the pirates. We read that in the year 1692, during the reign of Carlos II of Spain, the wall in question was commenced, it took seventy years to finish and cost two hundred and twenty five thousand dollars. In form the walls originally spread over an irregular seven sided polygon with bastions at each of its angles, and massive octagonal forts at the water edge, the walls themselves averaged twenty six feet high, and twelve and a half feet thick. A good deal of these walls have been razed, but enough of them are still standing to indicate what a colossal work it must have been for a limited number of inhabitants to build, the wall along the sea front has quite disappeared, but in many places those remaining seem as the day they were built.

It is stated that the site of the city has been twice changed, but it is permanently located now over the old Maya underground chambers, once used as catacombs, and in which mummies and idols have been found.

Campeche formed part of Yucatan until the year 1858, when it became a State, but prior to that time the capital was a city belonging to Yucatan, with which and the city of Merida, the capital city of the latter, a continual feud existed, which perhaps was the original cause of the division, and formation of the new State. Rumour has prevailed recently, that it will probably become a Territory on account of

the depleted state of its revenues, the Federal Government taking over all responsabilities.

A strange contradiction, difficult of explanation, appears here, especially after reading the above notes, inasmuch as the character of the average Yucatecan is energetic, active and intelligent, whereas that of the Campechano is easy going and indolent. Of the same blood, and living in close proximity, the same characteristics would reasonably be expected. Jealousy has always existed between them, but the Yucatecan has had the best of it, and made more use of his time, while the Campechano, who at one time, history tells us, was not lacking in enterprise, has apparently come to the conclusion that it is not worth while to try to keep up with the strenuous period.

A fairly decent hotel, "The Betancourt" and another of lesser pretensions, are found to meet with all the requirements of the place.

Campeche has long been famed for the vast quantities of Dye Woods, including Log Wood, Mahogany and Cedar, that have been exported to various parts of the world, and several American Companies are now engaged, in an important scale, cutting those valuable woods, which are found in great abundance, besides collecting Chicle, tapped from the Zapote trees, that abound throughout the State, and from which Chewing Gum so largely used in the United States, is manufactured.

The district of Bolonchen, bordering on the State of Yucatan, but in the State of Campeche, has within its limits continuous groups of ruins, many of which are nameless, places of interest, and objects more or less worthy of notice, but so far as modern modes of travel have not been largely introduced into the State greater effort is necessary and more inconvenience experienced than in Yucatan, it will therefore be advisable and well worth while, to visit the town of Bolonchenticul, and make arrangements, as at Ti-

ACAMBALAM. Palace, west.

cul, to constitute that place Head Quarters for a week or so, and visit leisurely the surrounding places of interest, all places South of, and including Chunhuhu, are within the limits of Bolonchenticul, and therefore we include that place together with Labphak, Ytsimpte, and a few others, more or less important, in the category.

Perhaps Tecax, a station on the Peto Railway, one hundred and six kilometres from Merida, would be found the nearest place of importance, where transportation could be obtained for Bolonchenticul, which is a matter of forty kilometres in a direct line.

But before getting so far from Merida, it would be well, so as to prevent annoyance, to make a memorandum, not to forget the necessary permits, to which we have so frequently alluded, to save inconvenience, the address of the curator is again inserted.

Mr. Andres Solis Camara, who lives at Nº 553, 59th Street, Merida, who is a most obliging gentleman, and can furnish information to those intending to visit the ruins.

BOCANCHEN.

Bocanchen also in the State of Campeche, lies at the foot of a sierra, and on the road between Macobá and Peto, being only twelve kilometres from the latter place, is very accessible, as Peto is the terminus of a railway, only one hundred and fifty eight kilometres from Merida.

Here there are said to be ruins, in fact many of the houses have been erected with sculptured stone, which have been taken from the ancient buildings, besides materials for the foundations of every house in the plaza, have been supplied from the same source.

In the local plaza were eight wells, still furnishing an abundant supply of water, although they bore evidence of having been built by the ancients.

Below the plaza on the declivity of the hill, a novel and perhaps unique feature presented itself, in having water gushing from the rocks, filling a clear basin beneath, and running off until it was lost in the woods, in fact the name of the place, originated with this phenomenon, as in the Maya tongue "becan" means running, and "chen" signifies a well.

This stream is of recent acquirement and was discovered accidentally by an indian. in clearing for his patch, he struck the water, and followed it to its source, where it was gushing from the rock, he alse discovered the ancient wells, above alluded to, which served as such an attraction, that a village soon grew, and which now has over six thousand inhabitants.

These wells are excavations through the stratum of limestone rock, which apparently extends throughout the State of Yucatan, and part of Campeche, and to which allusion has already been made in these pages, but whereas the level of the water in Merida averages twenty four feet from the surface, here it was found to be not more than five or six. Our Notes on Zenotes applies to this place also, and perhaps might be read with advantage. The village is encompassed on three sides by hills. Stephens dedicates various pages to the abundance of water here, which we regret not being able to transcribe, for want of space. No information on the subject of ruins, more pronounced than that already alluded to, has been procurable in the place.

BOLONCHEN.

The name of this place is derived from the Maya words, "bolon" ten, and "chen" wells, which same are to be found in the plaza of the village, and which plaza has formed the centre of a population from time immemorial. No document is available to tell us of the origin of the wells which unfortunately are as little thought of, and uncared for by the inhabitants, as the ruined cities which are so frequently found in their midst apparently nobody cares anything or wants to know, seemingly perfectly satisfied to remain in their blissful ignorance, unfortunately this remark applies equally to the peon and to those in a higher degree.

The wells are circular cut in the rocky stratum, which as we have before stated, seems to prevail throughout the whole State of Yucatan, the water in all instances is at the same level, but differs frequently in its depth from the surface. The source of this water is a mystery to the inhabitants, but there are some facts which seem to render the solution simple. The wells being perforations through an irregular stratum of rock, all communicate, and in the dry season, a man may descend into one, and come out by another, even at the extreme end of the plaza, it is manifest therefore, that the water does not proceed from springs. Besides the wells are full during the rainy weather, and when that is over, the waters begin to disappear, failing altogether in the middle of the dry season, from which it would appear that under the surface, there is a great rocky cavern, into which the floods caused by the rains, find a way by crevices, or other openings, which cannot be positively known without a survey of the country being made, but presuming upon the above theory, the waters having little or no escape, are retained, and furnish a supply, as long as they are added to from time to time, by the rains.

Further particulars upon this subject, will be found in the article under the heading of Zenotes.

Water usually lasts in the surface wells, for seven or eight months, after which, the supply is obtained from an extraordinary cavern, to which we now call attention, a sectional sketch of this place is added. Stephens so graphically explains his experience of this trip to the bowels of the earth, that we cannot do better than transcribe a great part of it, necessary brevity prohibiting the whole, we have also eliminated many disagreeable associations connected with it.

"At about half a league from the village of Bolonchenticul, and on the Campeche road, we turned off by a well beaten path, following which, we entered a winding lane, which descended gradually to the foot of a rude, lofty and abrupt opening, under a bold ledge of overhanging rock, seeming a magnificent entrance to a great temple dedicated to the worship of the God of Nature."

The vicissitudes suffered by Stephen's party, were so pronounced, that we now suggest, that explorers who desire to investigate the wildness and grandeur, and form their own ideas of the subterranean surroundings, should provide themselves with the following articles, namely, a strong and conveniently long rope, of good size, as it will no doubt be required, also an oil lamp, similar to that used by miners, to be attached to the hat, as experience dictates that the hands will be fully occupied in other ways, principally preventing falls, also a thermometer and a barometer, to ascertain the correctness of the various altitudes, and learn the different temperatures encountered, and lastly, perhaps, a loaded pocket pistol, would not be found an encumbrance.

"Following an indian guide (he continues) each provided with a torch, some of which had frequently to be abandoned, as the hands were required for other purposes, (hence the above suggestions being followed

HUNTICHMUL. Palace with four habitations.

in future), we entered a wild cavern, which became very dark as we advanced. At a distance of about five hundred feet from the entrance, the descent became very precipitous, we then went down a ladder about twenty feet, at the bottom of which all light from the mouth of the cavern was lost, but we soon reached the edge of a great perpendicular opening, (to be seen in the sketch of the section,) from the surface orifice of which, a strong body of light descended, the direct vertical measurement of this chasm, was found to be nearly two hundred and fifty feet. As we stood now on the brink of a precipice, under the shelving of an immense mass of rock, the darkness seemingly augmented, from an insignificant stream of light thrown down the hole, gigantic stalactites and huge blocks of stone assumed all manner of fantastic shapes, and seemed like monstrous animals and deities of a subterranean world."

"From the edge of the precipice upon which we stood, an enormous ladder of the rudest possible construction, and at an angle of about forty five degrees, led to the bottom of the hole, the ladder was between seventy and eighty feet long, and about twelve feet wide, made of rough trunks of saplings, lashed together lengthwise, and supported all the way down by horizontal trunks, braced against the face of the precipitous rock, the ladder was double, having two sets of flights or rungs, divided by a middle partition, and the whole fabric was lashed together with withes, it was very steep, seemed precarious and insecure, and confirmed the worst accounts we had heard of the descent into this remarkable well, but apparently, by holding on, and going carefully, keeping each foot and hand on a different rung, seemed to eliminate any degree of actual risk. We learned that these underground ladders were well attended to, with the object of preventing accidents"

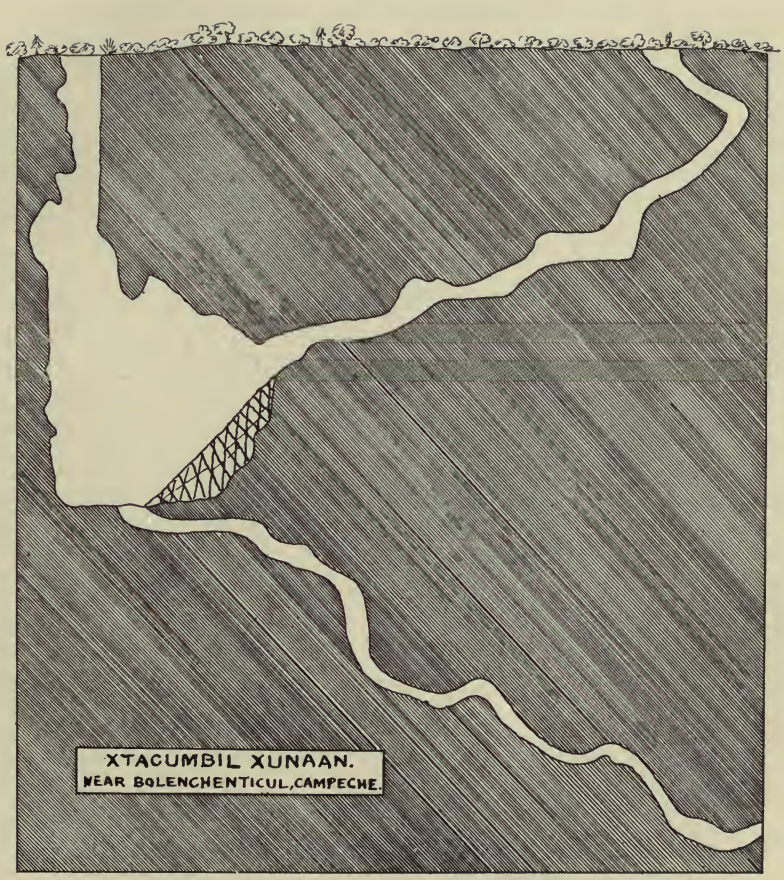
"After arriving at the bottom of this ladder, and looking up at the place from which we had just come, the view of its broken sides, with the light thrown from

the orifice above, was the wildest that can be conceived the place is called in Maya, Xtacumbil Xunaan, which translated into Spanish means La señora escondida, and signifies in English, the lady hidden away, derived from a fanciful story, that a young girl had been stolen from her mother, and concealed in this cave, by her lover."

"The sketch which accompanies this description, will give some little idea of a section of the bowels of the earth, from the entrance, to as far as we went, it may go further, but as our torch went out suddenly, and we were feeling in the dark, prudence suggested that we should return the way we came, and leave further investigation to others, the sketch is slightly defective, as there are various irregularities in the roadway as described in the text which are found on that small scale impracticable to represent."

"On the sides of the cavern, seven different ramifications lead to their respective basin of water, one of which is called Chaka by the Mayas, which means Red Water, this was the road we chose, but as our light went out, we had no means of determining the fitness of the name; the second is called Putzuela, which means the flow and ebb of the tide, from the fact, the indians say, that the water recedes with the South wind, and flows with the North-West, they also maintain that if they approach silently, they will always find water, but on the other hand, if a noise is made, the water immediately disappears, the third is called Sallab, which means a spring; the fourth Akahbah on account of its darkness; the fifth Chococha from it being always warm, the sixth Otzciha from being of milky colour; and the seventh Chaimaisha from the fact that it contains insects called ais."

"It is also affirmed that forty women once fainted in one of these passages, which is very likely, as the equilibrium of strong men, is likely to be upset, at what they have to experience to satisfy a little curiosity, and


XTACUMBIL XUNAAN.
NEAR BOLENCHENTICUL, CAMPECHE.

nothing whatever to be gained. Women are not allowed to go alone, from which it must be inferred, allusion is made to native women, as no foreign woman, in her senses, would ever be tempted to, or think of going alone."

"The opening Chacka, which we chose to explore, and down which we went by an abrupt descent, till we reached another ladder, not quite as steep as the long one just described, although great care has to be observed here, as everything in the tunnel through which we were going, was damp, wet, and slippery. At a distance of seventy five feet we came to the foot of a ladder, nine feet high, and six paces further we got to the fifth ladder, eighteen feet long, down which we had to go, a little further we descended another ladder eleven feet long, and a little further still we came to another long ladder, that was laid on a narrow sloping face of rock, which looks rather doubtful, one side was protected by a perpendicular wall, but the other was open and precipitous, it looks worse than it really is, and by care, can be descended. Two hundred feet further we came to another ladder eight feet long, at the foot of which we entered a low and stifling passage, and at a distance of three hundred feet we came to a rocky basin full of water. When we arrived we were black with smoke. grimed with dirt, and dripping with perspiration, The trip here has been purposely shorn of several unnecessary and unpleasant details, and with this abbreviated description, we leave it to the option of the tourist to consider if the game is worth the proverbial and in this instance, necessary candle."

CHUNHUHU an XCULHOK.

These names being given to one and the same place, are about seventeen kilometres South of Uxmal, but belong to the neighbouring State of Campeche, and

in the District of Bolonchen. Strange to say that even to day, very few people in Yucatan have ever heard of the places, or the ruins we are about to describe, notwithstanding they are, comparatively speaking, quite close to the capital city of Merida. Mexicans, with very few exceptions, have little interest in ruins, and those that know anything about them, have only recently studied the subject of archaeology, but should a foreigner, archaeologist or simply a tourist come here, accidentally discover, and subsequently manage to take out of the country, something of merit and worthy of admiration, that the natives failed to know the existence of when they had the opportunity, then there is a reasonable hue and cry, and no delicacy is observed in their selection of opprobious epithets to apply to him in this connection, the old fable of the dog in the manger, seems to be relatively appropriate.

Starting from a hut that stood upon the savannah of Chunhuhu, from where it is only a matter of a mile to the ruins, which consist of two buildings, the first of which is one hundred and twelve feet long and built upon a substantial terrace, although rather lower in height than those we have seen elsewhere. The whole when new and in a perfect state must have presented a grand appearance but as it is part of the façade, that towards the left end, has fallen, carrying away with it, one of the most beautiful doorways that we had seen in the country, besides all the ornamentation of the façade was either broken or had collapsed.

All the ruins are in a terribly delapidated condition, but still what is left, presents a bold striking effect, ascent is made to the back corridor, which is raised by three steps, and which still remain.

At a short distance, is the other building, measuring eighty five feet in front. When we saw it it had a freshness about it, that suggested a more modern epoch of construction, the whole was covered with a coat of plaster in a fair state of preservation.

From here, we saw at a disfance a high hill, perhaps more approaching the dimensions of a mountain, on the top of which rose a wooded elevation surrounding an ancient building. There was apparently something extraordinary in its position, but entirely dilapidated, other ruins also were to be seen at a distance, and seemingly in inaccessible positions, we nevertheless eventually got to them, although with considerable hard work, all were in a most ruinous condition, the building measured thirty three feet in front, and had two apartments each thirteen feet long by eight feet six inches in depth, and conspicuous in the façade, were representations of three uncouth figures in curious dresses, with their hands held up to the sides of their heads, like caryatides supporting the cornice.

On descending into the thickly wooded valley, a large stone structure was seen through the trees, on reaching which, and climbing over a broken terrace, we came to a large mound, faced on all sides with stone which we ascended, and crossing over the top, looked down upon a considerable area, thickly covered with trees and shrubbery, but having on each side, a range of ruined buildings with white façades.

Although standing on the savannah of Chunhuhu, these ruins are often called Xculhok, and the ruined building on the top of the hill, visible from both places, seemed towering as a link to connect all together, what the extent of this place has been, it is impossible to conjecture, supposing the two piles of ruins to have formed part of the same city, there is reason to believe that it once covered as much ground and contained as many inhabitants, as any other of the groups in which we are interested.

ITURBIDE.

Iturbide, in the State of Campeche, a name given to a prosperous modern locality, which has started up on the site of an old and once important place lies about forty kilometres in a straight line South East of Bolonchenticul, but on a good road. It actually occupies the position once held by the ancient City of Zibilnocac, where old and interesting objects are continually being encountered, besides ruins are to be seen within the distance of a short walk.

The present rancho of Zibilnocac, has been known from time immemorial by the people, although there are no documents to tell anything of its antiquity. It possesses amongs other things, an old well, which is attributed to the ancients, although it is doing good service for the present generation.

Another series of towering ruins, were enshrouded in the woods, through which white masses of stone could be seen glimmering, amongst these was one long edifice, which seemed to have a square tower or structure at each end, and also one in the centre. all the façades of which were ornamented with sculptured stone. The length of the building was one hundred and fifty four feet, while the depth was only twenty feet and seven inches. Some of the apartments had been painted, but the subjects were too much mutilated to be discerned or copied, but nevertheless all tending to show the skill of the builders. Towering mounds indicated the former existence of a great city, the remains of thirty three buildings, some with two stories were to be seen, but any structures they may originally have had, had disappeared and the mounds were overgrown, although the general style of the ruins showed that they had been built or occupied by a once powerful and mysterious people.

HOPELCHEN. Colossal figure.

LABPHAK

About half way between Bolonchenticul and Iturbide, and consequently in the State of Campeche, lies what is left of the grand and important ruins of Labphak. These consist of an edifice of three stories, although the third is only a bare dead wall, without any doorways, being as the indians said, the casa cerrada or closed house, but which the cura and alcalde of Bolonchenticul intended to open with powder, their curiosity prompting them to see if it contained anything of value, and with that object in view did not seem to hesitate at causing an irretrievable amount of damage, there were no conservators in those days, to prevent the vandalism, and as everything else in the country, the theory prevailed that the end justified the means. The whole building with all its terraces, were overgrown with gigantic trees. Interior staircases, for the first time, were found in this edifice, one of which was in good condition still. Stephens finding all complete not a step being out of place. An extensive view was obtained from the roof. The lowest range or story is one hundred and forty five feet in length, the roof and portion of the façade had fallen, almost burying the centre doorways. The building also possessed a gigantic staircase, forty feet wide, besides some excellent stucco basreliefs, to a certain extent similar to those found at Palenque, but decidedly inferior in every respect.

Near by other buildings, adorned with stucco, were found in the dense woods, and that more exist, there is no doubt, but as there in no person in this country, who has interest in searching, there they must lie, and as Stephens said, remain a rich and almost unbroken field for the future explorer, and no study would better deserve or repay a month's exploration.

MACOBA.

This place lies on the road from Iturbide to Peto, and is about fifty kilometres South of the latter, Peto, as will be known by this time, is the terminus of a railway, and one hundred and fifty eight kilometres from Merida. Macobá lies within the limits of the State of Campeche.

A strange feature here, is observed for the first time for whereas the indian generally, is nervous in passing the night within the "old walls" of the ancient inhabitants, these ruins have actually become re-peopled, as indians have taken up their residence here, it seemed strange to see smoke issuing from the ruins, and the place alive with mankind.

Stephens pathetically remarks, it depicted and combined present misery with past magnificence. The doors were stopped up with leaves and branches, and sculptured ornamentation on the façades blackened with smoke, and all around were to be seen the characteristic confusion and filthiness of indian housekeeping.

The ruins here are not extensive, there being only two, and they much decayed. One of the buildings is about one hundred and twenty feet in front, and has two stories, with the last remains of what had been a grand staircase, the upper story was in a ruinous condition, but parts of it were occupied by indians. No information is available relative to their origin.

MANKEESH.

Ruins are said to be here, but no one seems to know exactly where the place is. Stephens remarks that it would require a large circuit to get to them, but from what he heard, they merited the attention of some future traveller.

XOCHOB. Panorama of the ruins.

YACATZIB.

Also in the State of Campeche, and betwen Macobá and Becanchen, on the direct road to Peto, lies the far gone and devastated building that constituted the ruins of Yacatzib, the whole front of the building which was small, has collapsed, the doorway had been ornamented with pillars, but all had fallen and lay on the ground. Several mounds were to be seen in the vicinity but no other ruins of buildings. Here as elsewhere, no information is to be had, nor are documents alluding to the same extant.

YTSIMPTE.

By reference to the Skeleton Map, it will be seen that this place lies on the road between Chunhuhu and Bolonchen, and quite close to the latter, it consequently is in the State of Campeche.

Here another ruined city is found, a range of buildings, six or eight hundred feet in length, first attracts the attention. Time and vandalism have treated this place cruelly, from the fact of it being near a town, the builders have availed themselves of the opportunity of acquiring building stone without any trouble, consequently all the smooth stones of the buildings have been picked out, and carried away. The remains of the grand staircase, twenty feet wide were to be seen, but all in a ruinous condition, some outer stones remained, richly ornamented with sculpture, and sufficient reason exists, to show that the façade on either side of it had once possessed the same rich decoration.

Beyond was another large building, square and peculiar in its plan, at the extreme end the whole

façade lay unbroken on the ground, presenting the entire line of pillars with which it had been decorated. In the doorway of an inner apartment was the print of the mysterious red hand, the symbol that seems to follow us, in all our wanderings. Turn which way we would here devastation was before us, Stephens refers to these ruins at some length, but considering that his remarks were made over sixty years ago, it is to be presumed that the hand of time has left its mark, besides being assisted by unappreciative people, and that many things he saw have long since disappeared.

ZIBILNOCAC.

Zibilnocac and Iturbide are, one and the same place, and the corresponding Notes will be found under the head of the latter.

In concluding the description of the various localities, it will be observed that several views of Ruins have been inserted, in these pages to which no text applies, but unfortunately that was irremediable, from the fact that our investigations could not elicit any information respecting them, the very names now given are often deceiving as frequently others are substituted, the positions however will be found on the Sketch Map facing Page 40. We have never heard of any person, except the photographer, visiting them. consequently they are only known to few.

QUINTANA ROO.

The following notes applying to what was formerly the Eastern part of the State of Yucatan, but recently created the Territory of Quintana Roo, have been compiled exclusively from various authentic sources, and consequently no personal responsibility can be assumed for the various potent statements offered. The foundation of the whole was prompted by an article that appeared in the principal Merida paper, "La Revista de Merida," of the 29th of May 1908, the notes therefore, in their entirety being distinctly under the circumstances original, will it is hoped, be read with interest.

For upwards of half a century, a war of caste, that is between the Indians and all others, having broken out, the vast tract in question has been a scene of disturbance, towns and cities having been sacked, and many of the inhabitants having had to seek refuge elsewhere, it is stated that in a few months over two hundred towns and villages were destroyed by the indians, who left death and desolation in their wake.

The country although possessing many good attributes, has on account of opposing elements been thoroughly neglected, no attempt has been made to improve the many objectionable features, or take advantage of the natural and desirable characteristics that are only too abundantly found to exist in almost the whole area. In the first instance not a road, in the modern acceptation of the term, is to be found upon the wide expanse, and no real or practical inducement is offered to would be, and greatly desired colonists, to take up land and become interested in the locality. Nearly the whole territory is covered by a virgin and almost impenetrable growth of tropical vegetation, in all stages of luxuriance and dimensions, rendering the neighbourhood highly unhealthy, besides also giving

cover to a large number of unruly nomadic indians, whose depredations, as stated above, having recently become completely beyond the control of the State Government and the situation in consequence becoming intolerable, the Federal Government considered it imperative to take some drastic measures to alter the objectionable state of affairs, the result was, that by an Act promulgated by the Congress of the Union, on the 29th of October 1902, the entire Eastern part of the State of Yucatan was constituted a Territory, and named Quintana Roo in honour of a son of the State, who had during an eventful career, been one of the heroes of Independence.

Federal or rather Territorial troops, especially enlisted for the service, were sent by sea to Ascension Bay, from where a little narrow gauge military railway on the Decauville system, was built to the seat of Government, at which place necessary buildings were erected, but so far, although a matter of seven years have elapsed, a large amount of public money spent, and a certain number of lives lost, no material benefit to the community at large has accrued or improvement in any detail been made apparent, instances of jealous rivalry detrimental to the public service are reported, besides the eyes of the Government being hoodwinked, as although large sums of money are being continually received from the Metropolis, the idea reigns there, that the pacification of the rebellious indians, has become a thing of the past.

In confirmation of the above statement the "Mexican Herald," of the 7th of June 1908, says:— "General Ignacio A. Bravo, having obtained two months "leave of absence, is expected to be in Mexico in a few "days. He has been in Quintana Roo during the last "five years almost without interruption. He conducted "the brilliant campaign which ended with the capture "of Chan Santa Cruz, the head quarters of the Maya "Indians, this capture putting an end to the Indian

1. XOCHOB. Principal palace.

2. YUCATAN. A typical Maya insurgent.

"rebellion. The government changed the name of the "town to Santa Cruz de Bravo, in honour of the "distinguished and gallant officer."

Now here is an instance of one story being good until the other is told, for the following remarks made by the "Revista de Merida" do not tally, and difficulty is found in effecting a reconciliation, one story being so diametrically opposed to the other.

"By information received from Quintana Roo, it is "learned that the rebellious indians assaulted an escort "last Friday, between the camp at Nohpop, and the "village of Chankik, whereby one man was killed, and "two seriously wounded. A turkish subject on his way "to Santa Cruz, saved himself in a marvellous manner, "and it is now common talk, that these assaults are "continually happening on the road, besides that there "is no communication by telegraph or telephone with "Santa Cruz. In reality land communication with Peto "and Merida does not exist, as in spite of the military "posts, which are established along the road, the Mayas "cut the telegraph and telephone wires, which they re-"cut into little pieces, to be used as ammunition, in "place of shot or ball, they assault the mail carriers, "and as we say attack escorts, in reality they are the "owners of the road."

"The means of communication with Quintana Roo, "are reduced to the ocean route, which is at present "administered to by the national men of war, that "continually run to Ascension Bay, or by the boats of "the Colonization Company, an American concern, "that operates in the North Eastern section of the "Territory. The men of war, or rather gun-boats, for "they are in reality nothing else, are naturally suffering "more or less wear and tear, through performing a class "of service for which they were not intended, and the "Territory continuing to be in a disturbed state, their "attention is necessarily taken away from other matters "perhaps more belonging to them."

"The little narrow gauge Decauville system light "railway, sixty centimetres gauge, that operates between "the Capital of the Territory (Santa Cruz de Bravo) "and the port (Vigia Chico), fifty six and three quarter "kilometres in length, lends some insignificant service "to the public administration, but absolutely nothing "to the territory, on account of its very reduced propor- "tions, and not being connected with the general Yuca- "tan system. Unquestionably this military railway "should be extended to Peto, when such being realized, "safety would be established, and rapid and constant "communication would be obtained with the rest of the "Peninsula, besides facilitating and encouraging the "establishment of colonies, and the investment of Yuca- "tecan capital in Quintana Roo. Add to this, the "benefit the commissariat and other departments would "derive, in being supplied more rapidly with stores, "which service is now executed in a dilatory manner "by sea."

"From what we hear, it has been a mystery how "the rebels provide themselves with arms, but when "it is considered that the boundary line with British "Honduras and Guatemala, is entirely open and un- "cared for, the key to the said mystery is very easily "supplied. The ponton situated in the middle of the "Bay of Chetumal, is confided to the charge of a coast- "guard man, and he with a similar establishment at "Bacalar, are not sufficient to watch the extensive "frontier a matter of some fifty leagues, that being the "distance that intervenes between the river Hondo and "the limits of the State of Tabasco. Notwithstanding "this line is perfectly dilineated on the Maps, no visi- "ble sign of it exists in reality, nothing but complete "abandonment, not only of Federal employees, but not "even a habitation of any sort is to be seen anywhere "in its entire extension. Naturally in any part of this "long stretch an illicit introduction of arms, ammunition

"or contraband goods, can be introduced in any quantity, without impediment into the country."

"Notwithstanding this free admission, the paper goes on to say:—

"The Colony of Belize [British Honduras] looks "with disgust on the military occupation of Quintana "Roo, on account of the commercial losses caused, and "have consequently renewed the old traffic of arms and "smuggling with the rebel Mayas, with the object of "preventing them submitting to the authorities, so that "the insurrection may last for years, and that possibly "the Government, on account to the non-fulfilment of "its hopes of the pacification of the Mayas, tire of the "sacrifices that are continually being made, and aban- "don the territory to its fate, and leave rhe rebels to "return to their barbaric state."

These latter paragraphs should not be allowed to pass without a few words of criticism, as the statements are so decidedly original, and to an extent contradictory, How Belize can possibly be concerned with military occupation of Quintana Roo, certainly passes our understanding, particularly when it is openly admitted that the frontier is fifty leagues in length, and that any amount of contraband effects could be brought in, without hindrance, besides it is safe to say, that no difference whatever is noticeable in the returns of sales of various kinds, made in that town. We are told even that Mayas have free entry into Belize, and why should they not have, provided they observe the laws, but looking nearer at home, there is not a particle of doubt that many a gun has been sold to the rebels, across the counters of stores here, in the very capital of the State of Yucatan, there is nothing to prevent them, there is no distinguishing mark on a rebel, by which he can be identified as such, and it does not require any particular amount of nerve to enter the City of Merida, they merely take the train at Peto, paying their money for their ticket, and also for what they purchase on

their arrival in Merida, and who is to know who they are, or care, as long as their money is good.

But such an insinuation, about the Colony of British Honduras playing into the hands of the rebels, with the object of preventing their rendition to the authorities, would suggest an investigation being made, although the fact of the British or Mexican Governments not making a searching enquiry into such a charge, simply shows that the person who wrote the article is not considered responsible, and no one thinks anything more about it.

The same paper "La Revista de Merida" goes on to say:—

"We have already represented that the remedy "for this anomalous situation, is to first endeavour to "isolate the indians, and put an end them holding any "communication with, or facilitating the crossing of "the Belize frontier. In this way the acquisition of "arms and ammunition will be interrupted, and they "being in want of one or the other, would cause them "to submit, and to take up their abodes in the different "towns. But in the event of the Indians submitting, or "being taken prisoners, they should be treated tenderly, "and have lands apportioned to them, on which to "establish themselves with the object of setting an "example that would be followed by others, all thereby "discontinuing their hostile attitude, and locating in "towns, that would soon be formed, besides assisting "materially in the colonization of the whole district, ' establishing civil rule, opening up roads, and inaugura- "ting schools."

"By no other means will Quintana Roo prosper, "for several years at least, surely not by the Federal "Government being obliged to maintain a numerous "garrison, besides sacrificing so many lives in a perni- "cious climate."

The unintentional humour and would be astute remarks contained in the last two paragraphs, should

1. ICHPICH. Remains of palace.
2. MULULTSEKAL.

not pass unnoticed, proposing ways for the building up of colonies in the one, and as much as telling prospective colonists that they are going to their deaths in the other. Fortunately the writer in the "Revista de Merida" is clearly ignorant of the subject he is trying to handle, but as to his remarks on the climatic situation, he ceases to be amusing, and becomes more than culpable, especially he being a resident of Merida, to be guilty of uttering such an unjust criticism, detrimental to his own State, makes a paragraph that has recently appeared in another issue of the "Mexican Herald" pardonable where in it states, "that the Chief of Police in Ciudad Juarez, was in future going to send convicted thieves to Yucatan, as being the best means of getting rid of them, as fever abounds here, and that death is almost sure to come speedily."

As it happens, both these statements are gross exaggerations, as statistics show that the mortality of the State of Yucatan, in which, as has been stated Quintana Roo was originally included, is not by any means as heavy as elsewhere in the Republic, and any defective sanitary conditions that may exist, are very easily rectified, time and money only being required to render the general health as good as could be desired, abundant means to that end being at hand, for instance, clearing away or thinning out the dense forests that exist, and in that manner allowing the health giving winds from the coast to permeate, and the sun to get at the sodden mass of putrid vegetation that has been accumulating for centuries, would soon be found the specific, and make the territory as healthy and desirable as that of British Honduras, which Morris, in his extremely interesting and comprehensive work on the latter, says:- the healthiness of the country is no doubt due to what at first appears an element of danger, that is the perfect flatness of the ground, for where there are hills, there must be hollows, and in these the air stagnates, whilst here, where the land is quite level, the trade

winds that blow pretty constantly would find their way to every part, carry off the emanations of the soil. Many instances could be given of other towns similarly situated, possessing what may be termed a healthy climate for the tropics, and evidently arising from the same causes. From actual experience and very careful returns, however, the health of Belize is proved to be exceptionally good, the death rate of 33 per thousand, being only slightly in excess of that of Paris and New-York.

Geographically, Quintana Roo is separated from the State of Yucatan, by an imaginary line running south from the Gulf of Mexico, between the 87th and 88th degrees of Longitude West of Greenwich, to the intersection with the parallel that passes near the town of Chemax, then continuing to the angle formed by the dividing line of the two peninsula States, Campeche and Yucatan, at a point called Put, and from there, running South, to the Guatemala limits, in the 10th degree of Latitude.

Quintana Roo in consequence, is bounded on the North by the Gulf of Mexico, on the East by the Carribean Sea. On the South by British Honduras and Guatemala, and on the West by the Mexican States of Campeche and Yucatan.

While the climate as a rule is a little cooler than other parts of the Peninsula, it cannot be called healthy in a double sense as Malaria and other classes of Fever are endemic, and although the soil is the most fertile, still the rebellious Mayas being in arms, makes the place for the time being only, anything but a desirable location for a residence, or in which to invest one's capital.

At present, the only inducements offered to colonists and others to become interested in the Territory, are by articles for general consumption being exempt from Custom duties, besides liberal concessions for the colonization of the place being granted, but on account

of the disturbed state of the country, and the rebellious Mayas being particularly active, and apparently likely to remain so, for some time at least, there is not much enthusiasm evinced in taking advantage of the offers made. So far, hardly any industry is prosecuted, there are some companies getting out precious woods, besides Chicle, the juice of the Zapote tree, and from which tree it is tapped for Chewing Gum for the American Market, but all are working in a desultory manner. A splendid opportunity now exists to acquire valuable land at a very moderate price, as from present appearances, the existing objectionable elements may soon be removed.

The Government is beginning to inaugurate a system of public education that may possibly have a pacifying influence over, and appeal more forcibly to the indian, but it will be found terribly up hill work, and will reasonably take many years before any actual or tangible results will be derived. But the fact of it being said that some of the same turbulent indians are taking service with foreign companies, and giving excellent satisfaction, looks encouraging, and shows that they are made of tractable material.

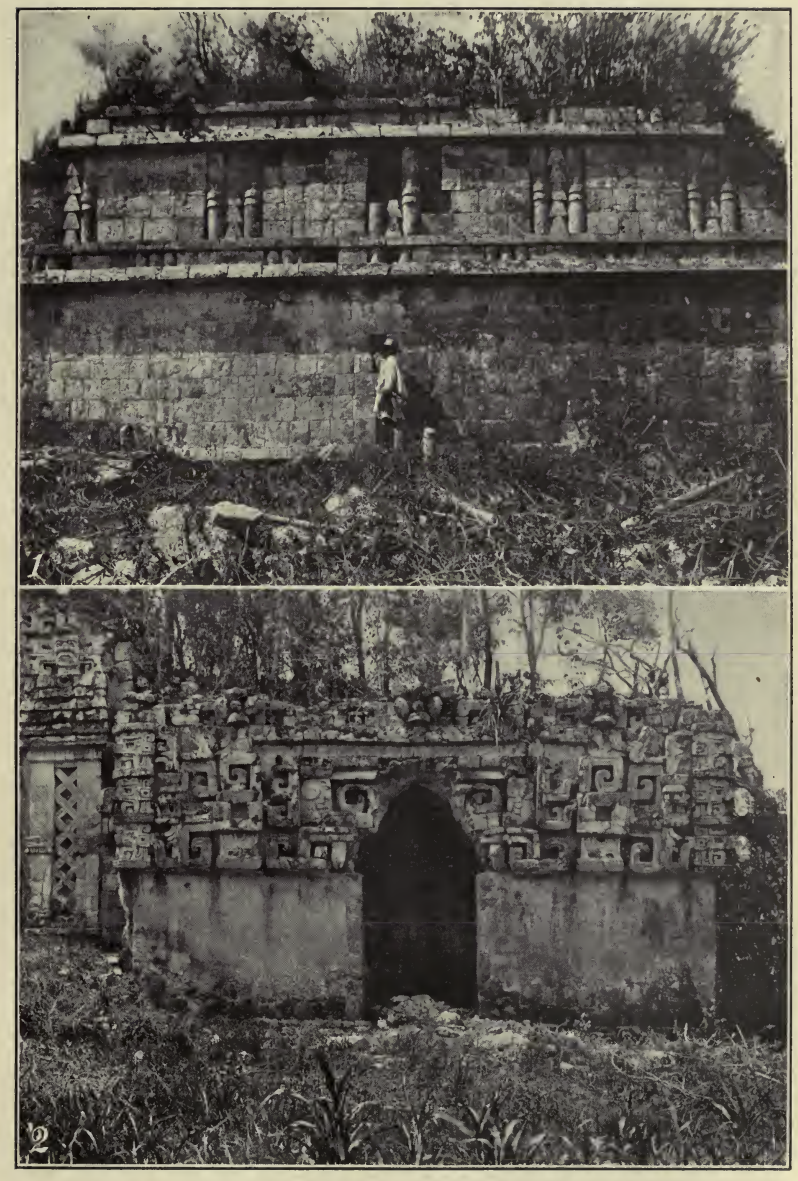
Rumour based on good authority, says that work will be commenced very soon on the road between Peto, and Santa Cruz de Bravo, the distance of which is more or less one hundred and sixty kilometres, the consummation of this excellent project will take away a large area of cover from the mobile indian, as it is stated that the clearing is to be one hundred metres wide, throughout the entire length, thereby eliminating an ever serious menace. The railway is to be extended also, joining both places, and so enabling the trip to be made in a few hours with safety, which at present takes five or six days with considerable risk, besides the magnificent work will serve as a nucleus to open up the grand country, which has suffered only too long with its heavy tropical growth of timber and brush, that has prevented

the health giving sun getting to the rich soil. Little doubt remains that the greatly desired colonization on an extensive scale, will soon follow. The writer of these notes is interested in a magnificent tract of fine land in this neighbourhood, which is offered on exceptionally easy terms, the particulars of which can be obtained from the publishers of this sketch.

By a schoolbook that we have recently seen, the young idea is taught to understand that the territory has been re-conquered from the rebellious indians, by the mighty power of the Federal Government, but unfortunately that statement can hardly be considered exactly correct, for the prevailing opinion at Peto, an important town on the borders of the Territory, and towards the South of the State of Yucatan, is that it is far from being an Eldorado, or a desirable place to live in, or even to travel through, as one's life is not safe, and the irony of the situation is, that the lives of the guards, or Federal soldiers, are far from safe either, as the Merida papers are continually publishing accounts of private individuals, and particularly their escorts, which are furnished by the same troops, being potted. But this will only hasten matters as the Government is preparing to adopt a more streneous manner or more forcible means to attain their object, and render the country perfectly quiet.

At the present writing everything is in a very primitive condition, although without a vestige of doubt, the territory is destined to have a great future, but we have been told by intelligent Yucatecans, that at the moment, it is an excellent place to keep away from.

A notable lake, sixty kilometres long, by two kilometres wide, is to be found just below Peto, it is named Chancanab, from which inexhaustible quantities of salt, possessing properties exactly similar to the celebrated Epsom Salts, can be procured, there are also other lakes in the territory, but not possessing any particular interest.



1. XKALUPOCOCH. North side of palace.
2. XOCHOB. Left wing of palace.

Amongst the products of the country, are dye woods, Mahogany, Cedar, Zapote, and other precious woods. Corn can be grown, in any quantity after clearing, although a large quantity was imported from the United States last year.

Anything peculiar to the tropics can be grown here, but unfortunately agricultural pursuits at the moment, are little thought of. The delicious flavour of the various fruits grown in the country, such as Oranges, Pine apples, Bananas, etc., etc., is far famed.

The coast and rivers abound with a diversity of fish, and in the forests are to be found tigers, lynxes, and other savage animals, birds of gorgeous plumage, and rare orchids are also to be seen.

The Northern and Eastern shores of Quintana Roo, especially the latter, are dotted with ruins, in fact a succession of ruined villages, temples and adoratorios is visible, in more or less dilapidated condition around the coasts, which ruins in their aggregation, would warrant the theory of many would-be-wise-ones, whose opinions are worthy of consideration, especially in the absence of better ones, that an unknown race entered the continent by Behring's Strait, passed through the United States, then through the Republic of Mexico, and eventually traversing the Yucatan Peninsula, came to a full stop on the borders of the Carribean Sea, for the simple reason, that they could not go any further, at the same time presuming that if it had not been for the Ocean, they would have gone on advancing, and eventually planting elsewhere, those wonderful edifices, the remains of which are to be found to-day in such endless numbers, in the border State of Yucatan, and so frequently in such close proximity to the Ocean.

When those wanderers, looking perhaps for some promised land, found that they could go no farther,

and not wishing to retrace their steps, or go elsewhere, although we have abundant evidence that some of their number went to Central America, they began to be reconciled to the situation, and commenced to make themselves permanently at home in different parts of the State of Yucatan, from which we have already mentioned, Quintana Roo has been taken.

They began to show their wonderful efficiency and intelligence as architects, erecting such a number of mammoth structures, that even after a lapse of centuries, their works are here to speak for them, to demand the admiration of future generations, besides proclaiming themselves a wonderful race, in comparison with that found here at the present time.

The foregoing theory has been challenged, on the basis, that in many places passed in their wanderings, or temporarily dwelt in, as mentioned from time to time, there is a lack of harmony or similar characteristics in the different localities. This criticism might apply to decades or even for a century, but when it is out of the bounds of presumption, and freely admitted, that the different relics that are encountered throughout the continent, must have taken many centuries to construct, it is fair to suppose, without a particle of stretch of imagination, that new ideas occurred to them as they proceeded with their buildings, as orders, styles and fashions change in the present day. Then again, a great deal depended upon the materials they found in the immediate neighbourhood, suiting themselves always to circumstances, and showing as they so clearly do, their wonderful adaptability of making the most of the elements at their disposal. For instance, devoting much time and notable skill to the sculpture of stone, while in other places, confining their ornamentation to stucco, clearly proving that their knowledge of limes and cements was great, then again, in some localities, they availed themselves of zapote wood, (which is remarkably hard, and rings like metal when it is struck,) for

lintels and other purposes, while elsewhere they always used stone, when such could be quarried, or found in suitable lengths.

People are too prone to judge, and criticise from the standard of to-day, forgetting that in those days, they knew a vast deal that is a sealed book to us. From our own experience, we absolutely know that there are many lost arts in India, a presumably much younger country than this, where works, in their magnitude, beauty of design, and excellence of workmanship, could not be attempted to-day, and why should this not apply to Yucatan, which we have often affirmed is admitted to be the cradle of intelligence and enlightenment.

The fact of Le Plongeon asserting, that an account of the submergence of the lost continent of Atlantis is mentioned in the various hieroglyphics at Uxmal, Yucatan, besides that an hieroglyphical account of the assassination of Chaakmol (Abel), whose statue, declared to be at least twelve or thirteen thousand years old, has been discovered during recent years, at Chichen Itzá, also in Yucatan, speaks of Atlantis several times, not forgetting also, that other descriptions alluding to the disappearance of the continent, leads one to suppose that the lost Atlantis mentioned by Herodotus, was known to the inhabitants of this peninsula, or at least to the mysterious builders of the above groups of ruins.

Another subject, that gives food for thought, is that Señor José Milla, a Guatemaltecan scientist, in an interesting sketch, which it is understood has never been translated into English, affirms that the Atlantic Ocean has for ages encroached and washed away, a large part of the coast of Yucatan, thereby entirely changing its original configuration, this accentuated by the fact that the Gulf Stream, which is admitted to be the most remarkable of permanent currents, and the main branch of which continues its Westerely course through the Carribean Sea, may be responsible for a perpetual erosion, the work of centuries, or as it is

stated thousands of years. Add to these ideas, the fact that it is very clear that the Island of Cozumel was once joined to the mainland, it being now, as is stated elsewhere in these pages, separated by a channel, fourteen miles in width, which was more than probable effected by the inroad made by the ocean, it must also not be forgotten that the ruins of Tuloom, which lie on the mainland, and nearly opposite to the island of Cozumel, appear on the very brink of a precipitous bluff, and the wall which evidently surrounded the principal buildings at one time, when in its perfect state, is missing on its sea side, as if the ground on which it originally stood, had been washed away, causing a landslide by the continual action of the ocean, the main building which as has been said, is on the very edge of the bluff, looks as if it also was destined sooner or later to follow suit, and disappear into the swift running waters below.

We must not forget to mention, that on reading of the large population that Cozumel evidently contained at one time, it is obvious that the island must have been much larger than it is now, and that possibly its East coast has also been encroached upon by the ocean, all these ideas supported by the admitted immensity of time, would lead one to suppose that the entire configuration of the part of the continent in which we are interested had been changed, and that the lost Atlantis might have originally been at no considerable distance.

But irrespective of the extravagant statements just given in the last three or four paragraphs, proof is not lacking that the unknown builders would have gone farther if they could, from the important remains found on the islands of Cozumel and Mugeres, to which separate allusion is made, but in measured words, although having at our disposal voluminous material to enable us to go much deeper into this absorbing subject, to prove that Cozumel was at one time a notorious hotbed of idolatry, and the Mecca of those times, but as

1. XAMPON. Interior of palace.
2. XCANALCHEN. Remains of edifice.

we are working in prescribed limits, we must, unwillingly on our part, refer the reader to the works of Lord Kingsborough, Maudsley, and Stephens for details on the subject.

Sufficient facts have been elicited from various sources to prove that Southern Mexico, (Yucatan in particular) Guatemala, British Honduras, Spanish Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and the Isthmus of Panama were once the cradles of a high order of civilization, but nothing more is known of the dynasties and kingdoms which flourished at that remote age than is told by the hieroglyphical inscriptions and the carvings found on the columns, monuments and temple walls of the ruined cities of the regions named.

We admit many of our statements seem extravagant, but they must be accepted until some future savant shall decipher these mysterious inscriptions nothing can be known of the history of those who carved them, but the belief is gradually gaining ground that the mystery that shrouds these monuments will yet be dispelled and that many authentic pages will be added to the past history of this continent, and probably in corroboration of all that is stated above.

But to retrace our steps to the Eastern coast of Quintana Roo. On the brink of a high broken precipitous cliff, commanding a magnificent ocean view, and a picturesque line of coast, with the Island of Cozumel in the distance, is to be found the grand old ruins of

TULOOM

that are in a strikingly good state of preservation, and to which, only one theory can be suggested, which is that as they are out of the beaten track of tourists, travellers, or so called students of archaeology, they have been saved from the vandal hand of man, which perhaps, all things considered, is more to be feared than the ravages wrought by time.

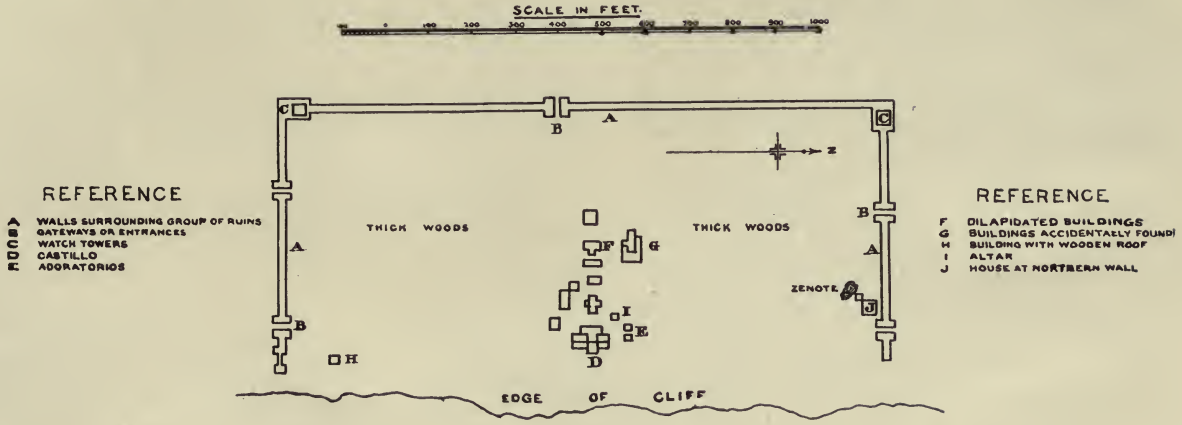
All the buildings to which we now refer, in as few words as possible, are surrounded, at least on three sides, by a roughly but well constructed wall varying from eight to thirteen feet in thickness, and aggregating some two thousand six hundred feet in length, composed of flat stones, laid dry, and notwithstanding that no mortar was used in the construction, it has stood, almost in its entirety, for hundreds of years in the same state. The fourth side is unprotected, possibly washed away, as has been already suggested, but perhaps advantage was taken of the proximity to, and precipitous character of the cliff, obviating the necessity of an artificial boundary, besides it may have been designedly left open, so as not to obstruct the beautiful view. Many instances have been exemplified, clearly showing the grand old architects had an eclectic eye for the beautiful, and for the general effect produced, as well as to the solidity and massive character of their constructions.

Being fully impressed with the idea that more unknown buildings still exist here which by the density of the surrounding forest have not been brought to light, we have prepared a sketch of the structures, so far discovered, which will materially assist our possibly defective explanation we allude to each interesting detail in its order as shown in the accompanying index inset on the said sketch.

The Southern boundary wall, which is about six hundred and twenty feet long, has two entrances, about three yards wide each, on the Western wall about fourteen hundred and thirty feet long, which naturally runs parallel with the ocean, is found one entrance, of a similar width, while the Northern wall, which is a few feet shorter than the Southern wall, is supplied with two entrances, more or less the same width as the others.

Going in a Northerly direction for about eight hundred feet, after passing through the Southern boundary wall, and by the gateway nearest the cliff, we

TULOOM


SCALE IN FEET.
0
100
200
300
400
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600
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N
REFERENCE
A WALLS SURROUNDING GROUP OF RUINS
B GATEWAYS OR ENTRANCES
C WATCH TOWERS
D CASTILLO
E ADORATORIOS
REFERENCE
F DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS
G BUILDINGS ACCIDENTALLY FOUND
H BUILDING WITH WOODEN ROOF
I ALTAR
J HOUSE AT NORTHERN WALL
THICK WOODS
THICK WOODS
ZENOTE
EDGE OF CLIFF

come to the grand staircase belonging to the Castillo, this is an imposing piece of work, having a substantial balustrade on either side, still in remarkably good preservation, although all overgrown with trees, some of which were very large, and amongst which the ramon clearly predominated. The grand staircase thirty feet wide, is composed of twenty four steps, and upon ascent being made, that is, after considerable trouble, a platform is reached, which, like the stairs, was covered with a thick growth of trees, on many of these being cleared away, a magnificent view was obtained of the wildest scenery we had yet come across in Yucatan, besides a landscape painting of varied description, for on one side was an immense and almost impenetrable forest, prohibiting the sight of any artificial work, until actually upon it, while on the other, was the boundless ocean with the angry waves dashing against the cliffs below.

Upon gaining the level of the platform referred to, only the centre part or main body, the Castillo appears, the flat roofs that once existed over the two wings, long since disappeared, being considerably lower, all lending to the uneven character of the ground upon which the edifice is erected, the two wings have two stories each, and measure in length, together with the centre, about one hundred feet, these wings have suffered more than the centre, by the insidious roots of trees, which have played sad havoc in various places.

The main building is divided lengthwise into two apartments, twenty six feet long each, the one in front being six feet six inches wide, and the one behind nine feet wide, communication between the two being effected by a single doorway, each compartment is supplied with benches, one at either end of the front part, and running along the foot of the wall of the other. Stone rings are inserted, upon which, it is evident, doors were once supported, the roofs of the two compartments,

front and back, forming the centre block, still remain, being constructed with the stereotyped maya arch.

On the back wall, only narrow perpendicular oblong perforations to admit a little air, are found, as the prevalence and severity of easterly gales, precludes the possibility of having larger openings, the smallest detail, never seems to have been overlooked, by the learned architects.

As we say, the wings, even in their completed state, were much lower than the centre or main building, each consists of two stories. the lower one resting upon a slightly raised platform, from which rise steps leading to the upper story.

Having gone sufficiently into detail, nothing of interest remaining to be mentioned, with respect to the Castillo, marked D on the descriptive sketch, we will now refer to the other structures already found in the immediate vicinity, beginning with the boundary walls, under the letter A, and to which allusion has already been made. This City wall had two gateways or openings, marked B, on the North, two on the South, and only one on the West, or long wall, running parallel to the Ocean, all of which entrances are about nine feet wide.

At the North-east and North-west corners of the City boundary wall, are Watch towers, marked C, on account of occupying an elevated position, are approached by flights of steps, they have two entrances, the interiors are plain, but are each supplied with a small altar, which is, in both instances erected against one of the walls.

At the Northern wall, close to the gateway nearest to the sea, and under the distinguishing letter J, is a building, thirty six feet in front, by thirty four feet deep, which is divided into four rooms, no idea can be formed for what the edifice was originally intended, other than for a guard house, the roofs of all the rooms have fallen.

Close to this building, is a zenote, marked K, with

the remains of steps leading down to it, but the water is unserviceable, being very brackish, which is not to be wondered at, considering its close proximity to the sea, potable water was found in deposits, being the result of rains, which are frequent on the coast.

By reference to the index sketch, letter H represents a building erected about one hundred feet North of the Southern wall, it measures fifteen feet in front, by ten feet in depth, it contains only one room about seven feet in height, and has a flat roof, which appeared to Stephens, as disclosing a new principle of construction, it consisting of four principal beams of round timber, of about six inches in diameter, with small beams of round timber, of half that diameter, laid at right angles, as closely together as possible, and upon which bed, a thick conglomerate mass of mortar and large pebbles was laid, in a moist state, and allowed to harden, to become a solid crust, showing marvellous durability. Here, as in many other buildings, against one of the walls, was an altar, but in this instance, it had a rude triangular stone upon it, the use of which is not known, but seems to bear signs of having been used at no very distant period. On each side of the doorway, were large sea shells, let into the wall, doubtless for the support of the various doors.

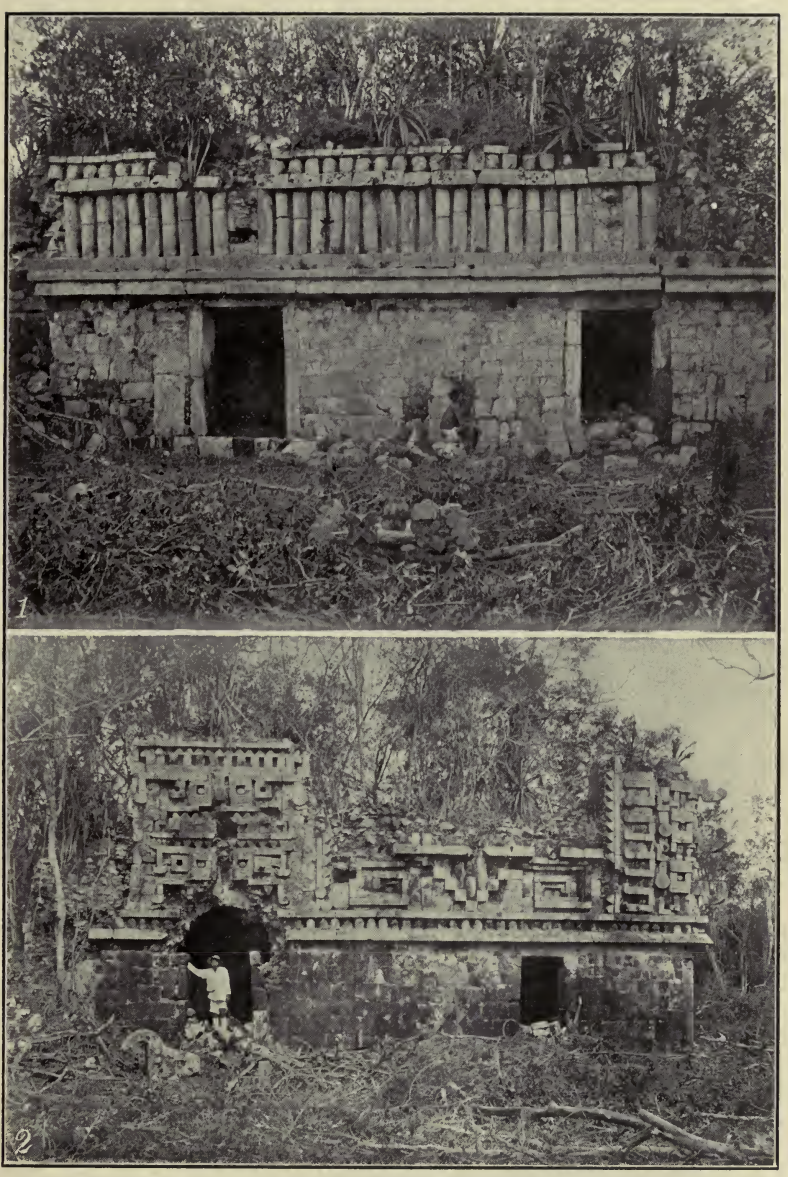
G. G. in the sketch, refers to various buildings, accidentally found, and previously unknown, a circumstance that gives weight to the idea that there are many other structures lying there, still undiscovered, and unknown to living mortal, one of those just discovered, and which faces the West, measures twenty seven feet in length, and nineteen feet in depth, it consists of two stories, but a strange feature exists, that there is no visible means of communication with the upper story, but the rooms on both flights correspond in every detail, the exterior has been lavishly decorated, and above the cornice of the façade, were fragments of rich ornamentation in stucco, the lower story has four col-

umns in front, practically making five entrances, all opening into a narrow corridor which on three sides encloses a chamber in the centre. The building is smothered in rank vegetation, and is palpably suffering in consequence. The walls of one of the rooms, measuring eleven feet by seven feet, were covered with the last remains of paintings, all irretrievably ruined by dampness.

Under letter F in the sketch, extensive remains of buildings, lie in close proximity to the Southern wing of the Castillo, in one of which is a room forty feet long by nineteen feet wide, the roof has long gone, although four columns still remain, that had been supplied to support it.

Also under F, is a small isolated building on the North side of, and forty feet from the Castillo, containing only one room, twelve feet long by seven feet broad, the walls and ceiling of which bear indistinct remains of colouring on the stuccoed surface, the one room is so elevated, that a staircase eight feet wide, was made to reach it, this staircase is now in a ruinous state, the ten or twelve steps that compose it, being nearly impassible, in front of the room is a raised platform on the level of the floor, twenty four feet long, and eighteen feet broad, the single doorway is very low, which causes Stephens to remark, that throughout the country, he had heard at times that the building of these cities were ascribed to hunchbacks, the lowness of the doors giving colour to the fanciful idea, the building was supplied with the characteristic triangular arch.

Other buildings, also marked F, in the last stages of irreparable ruin, were found in abundance at the rear of the structure just described, they have been destroyed out of all semblance by the rank growth of the roots of trees, which have worked their way insidiously into the walls. Close to these ruins is another building, Stephens says it is fifty three feet from one to the other, which measures forty five feet in length, by



1. XCOMCHEN. Principal edifice.
2. XLAP-PAHK. Principal palace.

twenty six feet in width, erected on a terrace six feet high, it is supplied with a staircase in the centre, and a large entrance, formed by two large columns, we are speaking of what was sixty years ago, the probability is that time since then, has worked sad havoc, for even at that time, the roof of the last mentioned building had fallen, and trees were growing out of the very floor.

The ruined remains of still another building similarly constructed to the one just noticed, is found, but it has suffered if possible more by the ravages of time, as we have said, these buildings, only a couple of hundred feet from the Castillo, were only accidentally found, the density of the rank surrounding vegetation entirely shrouding them from sight.

The only reference to this place, that we can find in any old works, is mentioned by Grijalva, in his narrative describing his expedition, where he states, that his ship's crew saw a bourg, so large that their own town of Seville, in Spain, would not have appeared larger or better. he also alludes to having seen a very high tower here; the comparatively small number of buildings found, or known of up to date, would lead one naturally to suppose, that many still remained, which it is to be hoped and expected, will before it is too late, soon be brought to light.

Both inside and outside the boundary walls, several small buildings are to be found, all marked E on the sketch, which without doubt, were meant for adoratorios or altars, they are more or less of a stereotyped form, standing on a raised terrace, with a circular platform, and measuring about fifteen by twelve feet. The interiors of these have only a single chamber, and from their appearance, lead one to suppose that they had been used for their idolatrous rites, even since the advent of the Spaniards.

Stephens remarks that ruined cities no doubt exist, of which nothing is known, there is a rumour of one

being in existence, possessing rich mural paintings, in bright and vivid colouring, but its exact location could not be obtained, the same authority goes on to say, that he conceives it not impossible that within this secluded region, may exist, even at this day, unknown to whitemen, a living aboriginal city, occupied by relics of the ancient race, who still worship at the temples of their fathers. This last statement suggests the possible residence of the present sublevados or rebels, as it is often a matter of surprise, where they can reside, or have their corn fields, for although such must exist, their domiciles so far remain unknown, the time will soon come however, when they will be rooted out, and all this doubt made clear, as the latest information from the Metropolis, is that, the Government is going to make an exhaustive investigation throughout the territory, sending the requisite number of soldiers here, for that purpose, so that the discontented ones will be driven from post to pillar, and in that way, soon be forced to throw up the sponge, and submit to the all powerful and long arm of the Federal Government. We have purposely omitted all semblance of sentiment in these pages, and will close with the simple remark that it does seem hard, that these poor indians should be so afflicted, who were only protesting against excessive taxation and other grievances, at least it appeared so to them merely wanting to be left alone, and not have strangers and others take an interest in their territory, verily the fate of the transgressor is hard.

Belonging to, and within fourteen nautical miles from the mainland, that is to say, the Territory of Quintana Roo, and to the North-east of the same, lies the important Island of

COZUMEL,

which is about thirty miles long and seven miles broad.

The name of the place, means in Spanish, "La Tie-

rra de las Golondrinas," while translated into English, it represents The Land of the Swallows.

The island is covered with forest land, producing an abundance of precious woods, besides large quantities of trees supplying the most delicious fruit, it is an ideal spot, with equable climate in a most favoured situation, having pure and abundant water, and possessing natural possibilities, besides being easy of access. The island for the most part is fertile, but the small arid tract is particularly suited to the growth of henequen, and therefore every piece of it, may be considered susceptible to cultivation. Nature seemingly intending it for a sanitarium, as it is constantly swept by fresh health giving sea breezes, that render the place particularly healthy, being as it is, immune of all sickness generally encountered elsewhere.

The geological formation of the land consists of limestone in stratas of recent formation, so recent indeed that many of the fossils buried in the rock masses, have their living prototypes swimming in the near-by sea.

The place is mentioned in history, as far back as 1518, when it was first discovered by Juan de Grijalva, even at that time, there were evidences a of higher civilization, particularly to be seen in architecture, and several well made building of stone and lime, constituting both temples and habitations existed, while many stone towers were seen by navigators, when cruising round the coast. There is every reason to suppose that there was a kind of sanctity given to the place, as there are signs of many shrines, adoratorios, sanctuaries and temples, all of which were dedicated to the original Maya divinities, and Stephens suggests that the island bore to the mainland, the same relation as Rome to the Roman Catholic World, and to all the above must be added, that the evidence is strong, that Cozumel was largely populated, and the hot-bed of idolatry at one time. We are tempted to go

further into detail, and say a few words about the Cross of Cozumel, at present to be seen in the Museum of the City of Merida, which the historian Cogolludo considered was an object of veneration among the Indians, long before their conversion to Christianity, but that is much too important a subject to be treated lightly in this description. Prescott considers it necessary to bestow several pages on the greatly discussed object, so we therefore refer any interested reader to his delightful work.

The principal town or village is San Miguel, which lies pleasantly in a cove, formed in the strait that separates the island from the mainland, and has a lighthouse, with a fixed light, that is visible for a distance of eleven miles. It possesses a long stretch of white coral sand beach, where some magnificent specimens of shells are to be found, the beach extends to a rocky point, the island in fact is surrounded by rocks or reefs, and while the water off the shore, is of wonderful clearness, allowing shells lying on the bottom, and fish swimming at a depth of fifty feet to be seen quite clearly, still in some places, there is a distinct discolouration in the water, attributable to sunken rocks, which renders the anchorage unsafe during a norther.

In the outskirts of the town, are the ruined walls of an old Spanish church, which measures sixty or seventy feet in front, and runs about two hundred feet in depth, evidently constructed for a good sized assemblage, and undoubtedly had been built to take the place of an older building. The history of the Roman Catholic Church of Cozumel is as obscure as that of the ruined pagan temples in the neighbourhood, when it was built can be conjectured to within a hundred years or so, but why it lost its importance, or where its numerous congregation vanished, are questions to which history does not refer, nor has a carved inscription or tablet been found alluding to the foundation of the edifice. But it is on record that a priest named Benito

COZUMEL.

1. Main street.
2. Spot upon which the first Mass was said in the country.

Perez, who accompanied Grijalva, learning that both the bishoprics, those of the City of Mexico and Cozumel, where simultaneously vacant, and considering that no comparison existed between them, petitioned the reigning Spanish monarch, to bestow upon him the latter benifice, which for some indescribable reason was considered a highly desirable one, and infinitely preferable to the other. A more or less relevant divergence must be tolerated here, to exemplify how time alters all conditions, as the late Archbishop of the diocese in which the City of Mexico is situated, who has just died although of the poorest origin in every sense of the word, has left a fortune of several millions behind him, and the Cozumel diocese has long become extinct.

Notwithstanding, as we say that there are no records of the Cozumel Church extant, or any means to establish its exact age, it is undoubtedly one of, if not the earliest built in Mexico, or New Spain as it was called in those early days. Historians state that the first mass held in the Americas was said on the Island of Cozumel, on the 6th of May 1518, by a priest that accompanied Grijalva's expedition.

Subsequently the place became one of the favourite resorts of a number of pirates, that infested these seas, and many fairy tales are told about large amounts of buried treasure, that existed there once, and possibly some deposits may be there still.

Some years ago a pathetic story was told, in the doors or green painted blinds used in a hut, having once belonged to one of the luckless vessels wrecked there, besides various articles that had originally belonged to ships, were seen lying about.

Our notes would not be complete, if we did not add, that the Island of Cozumel is a great place for Tortoises or Turtles, three descriptions of which are to be found, first, the Cahuamo, the eggs of which serve for food, and is useful also for its oil, the second sort, the Tortuga, the meat of which as well as the eggs is

eaten, and the oil also taken care of, besides the shell is worth about six pence a pound, while the third, the Karé has a shell that has a market value of One pound sterling a pound, rendering this species the most sought. This industry forms the principal means of support of the population, that consists of about one thousand souls.

A few words must now be said upon the

ISLAND OF MUJERES

as it now constitutes, and as is elsewhere stated the head of the Northern district of the Territory, besides being once or twice mentioned in history.

Its position is shown on the North East corner of the Map of Quintana Roo, lying about six miles from the coast, and measuring between five and six miles long, by half a mile wide.

Stephens is here as well as on the mainland, a great authority, and upon whose statements the utmost confidence can be imposed, the general consensus of opinion being invariably in his favour, but besides having brought upon himself the admiration of all interested in his vast researches and important discoveries throughout the State of Yucatan, he has also incurred the unequivocal envy of Mr F. A. Ober, who in his very excellent work, "Travels in Mexico," published in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1884, actually relies more in the palpably erroneous statements of Dr Auguste le Plongeon, than he does in the unquestionably veritable assertions of his countryman, and after all the exaggerated and extremely improbable assertions, made by le Plongeon, that we have shown under the caption of Uxmal, we are inclined to think unanimous preference will in all instances, as far as reliability is concerned, be awarded to the statements averred by Stephens.

The old Spanish historian Gomarra, writes that there are, at Cape Mujeres, towers covered with wood and straw, in which, and in the best order, were put many stone idols, that appeared to be representations of women, and the Spanish soldier historian Bernal Diaz; in his turn, says that some of the crew belonging to the vessels under the command of Cortez, went on shore, and found in the town, near by, four temples, the stone idols in which, represented human female figures of life size, on which account, they named the place, La Punta de las Mujeres, but although no mention is made by any of the old historians, of the actual Island of Mujeres, still little doubt remains, that the point, and the island, constitute one and the same place.

Stephens remarks that the remains of two buildings only, existed at the time of his visit, but no mention is made of any town, by either he, or le Plongeon, notwithstanding such really does exist, and is alluded to below which omission on their parts, is to be regretted, they being the only modern authorities who visited the locality, or who have written any descriptive notes on the subject. From the following statements, a decided lack of harmony is evinced.

Taking Stephens first, he remarks that the two buildings extant, and to which we refer, are a few hundred feet apart on the Northern end of the Island, on a high rocky perpendicular cliff, commanding immense expanse of ocean, the first of these is a lonely edifice, the steps that lead up to an almost square building, on the top of which was a small wooden cross, presumably added by some pious modern fisherman, while at the ruins of an altar, the front of the building on one side of the doorway has fallen, but when in its perfect state inclusive of the platform on which it stands, must have measured twenty eight feet long, by fifteen feet broad.

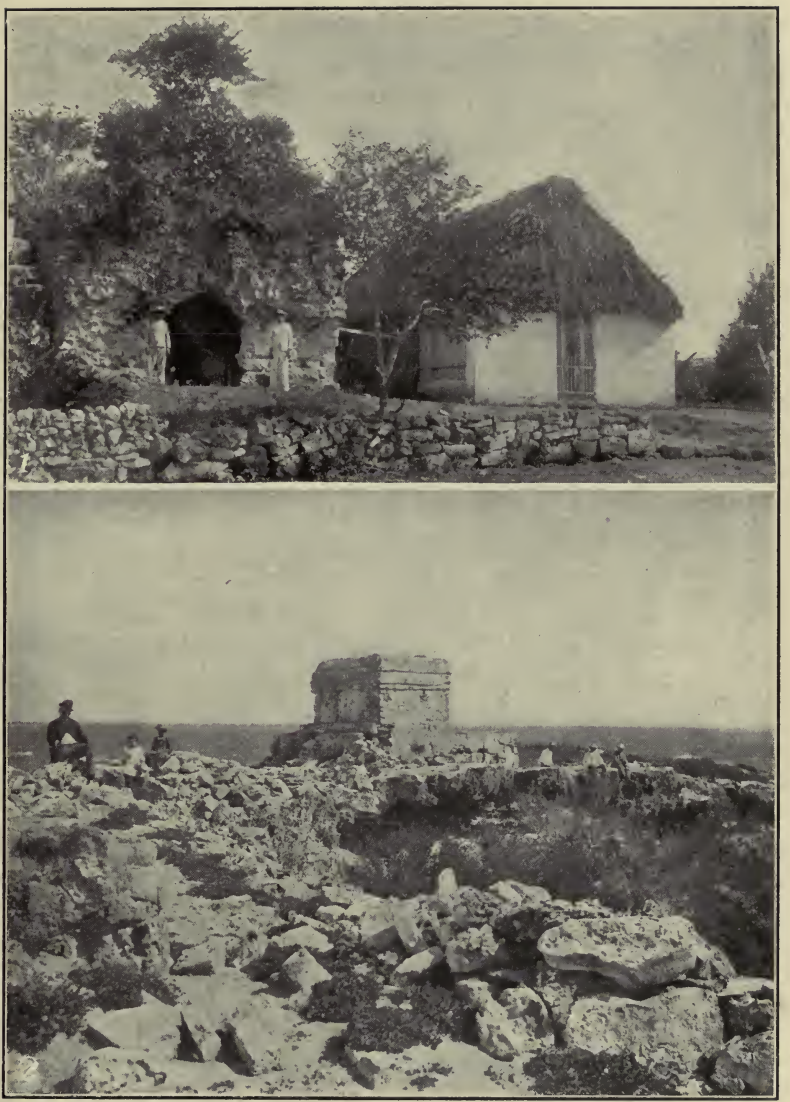
The interior of the building is divided into two corridors, in the front wall of which are three doorways leading into the inner part. The ceiling is composed

of the genuine triangular arch, so often referred to in our description, and clearly the work of masons from the main land, who had erected buildings there, and to which we have already alluded.

The white walls of the interior of the building, had offered too great temptation to some visitors, whatever their nationality, not to write their names, for besides mention made in English, of His Britannic Majesty's Ship "Blossom", calling there on the 11th of October 1811, R. Doyle and A. C. Goodall, inscribed their names in 1842. Then various officers belonging to the Texan War schooners, San Bernard and San Antonio, left their names. To all these, a french note was also added, registering a visit made by the Corsaire Françes (Chebek) le Vengeur, Capitan Pierre Lioviet.

A few hundred feet to the North of the building just described, is another about fourteen feet square, having dilapidated and almost inaccessible steps on three sides of it, being heavily covered by a growth of cacti, and other plants of a thorny character.

Ober, in his very interesting style, goes on to say, what Stephens did for the Island of Mujeres, in a superficial manner in the year 1842, the Archaeologist (Note the additional professional title, which was not acceded to his countryman, although of the two, more deserving of it,) Dr le Plongeon has since done more thoroughly and satisfactorily. In a communication printed in 1878, he gives a complete survey (the first) of the place, locating the ancient buildings, the shrine or temple, formerly containing the idols spoken of, and the altar. A valuable discovery made by the Doctor, (that strange to say had escaped the attention of Stephens, or had not been considered of sufficient importance to be noted,) was of a terra cotta figure representing a female, which formed the front of a brasero or incense burner, it was in the Doctor's opinion of excellent workmanship, and valuable, not only from this fact, but on account of the extreme rarity of works of



1. COZUMEL. Ruins of castle and church.
2. ISLA DE MUGERES. Temple at promonotory.

a ceramic character, found on or near the Yucatan Peninsula but notwithstanding clearly had been brought from elsewhere by some pilgrim.

His information relative to dimensions and description agrees with Stephens's, but he adds, portions of the structure have been taken away, and used for building purposes elsewhere, but to-day, says the Doctor, the people obtain stone from a large ruined city on the mainland opposite Mujeres, where they go in fear and trembling, lest they should meet the indians from Tuloom, and be made prisoners.

From the present Yucatan authorities, we learn that Stephens, as usual, is quite correct in his statement relative to the temple being on the North of the Island for not only are the ruins of that edifice to be found there, but a town, which bears the name of Dolores, and is also called Mujeres, having a population of some eighteen inhabitants, is situated there also, forming the chief seat of the Northern District of Quintana Roo, and with which, as has been stated the island of Cozumel is included. It will be remembered that neither Stephens nor le Plongeon make any allusion to this town, although le Plongeon hinted at it, when he mentions that the inhabitants brought building stone from the mainland.

The unusual fragrance of the incense burned in the various places of worship in Yucatan and the Territory of Quintana Roo, calls for the following lines to be written, which may be found interesting: Apparently from time immemorial, at least as far back as the advent of the Spaniards, various local gums such as storax and copal, were not only burnt in the churches, temples and altars, but they were also used on many other occasions as well; the chronicler of Grijalva's expedition in 1517, speaking of their visit of the temple, says, that an old indian put a very odoriferous perfume which seemed to be storax, in a vase, and burnt it before the idols. He also states that the Spaniards on

their first voyages on these coasts, found it the custom to fumigate all strangers, one of the complaints of an early voyager was against this prevailing custom, for he was often nearly choked by the fumes, pleasant smelling as they were; this was not done for the purpose of killing any germ of infectious disease, which the stranger might have about him, or destroying any microbes, but as a token of respect. At first, or rather until they were initiated to the contrary, Cortés's soldiers were much flattered, because they fancied themselves saluted as gods, by this token of homage.

Bishop Landa writes that travellers carried incense with them, and at night, wherever they might be, they invariably placed three stones together, upon which they placed their small dish, which they carried for the purpose, and in which they deposited several grains of incense, which they consumed by fire.

Besides, in all local churches at the present day, native gums are burned in censers, a custom handed down from very remote ages.

As if in confirmation of the above statements, relative to the use of incense derived from local gums, and bringing the use down to the present day, Ober remarks, that being desirous of varnishing some negatives, in order to carry them home safely, he put some live coals in a receptacle, which happened to be an incense burner, and entered the shrine to be protected from the wind, when lo; he says, a slight vapour arose from among the coals, and a sweet delicious perfume filled again the antique shrine, as in the days of its splendour, when the devotees and pilgrims from afar, used the burn the mixture, carefully prepared of storax, copal, and other aromatic resins, on the altars of their gods.

The island of Mujeres is known for being the resort of immense flocks of sea birds, and also where they rest and nest, particularly of penguins and ibises, which latter are not only to be seen sitting near the beach,

but also on the topmost boughs of near-by trees as Stephens prettily puts it, the green foliage appeared like an ornamental framework to better show off their snowy plumage.

This island is also an important place for turtles, where they are caught in great numbers, and a large business is done here with turtle eggs and the oil.

The place was famed among fisherman and others as having been the rendezvous of the celebrated pirate La Fitte, and the results of his piracy are said to be buried in the island, search has been made from time to time, but so far, it is said, without success.

In closing the Notes on Quintana Roo, the following particulars may not be considered superfluous·

The territory is divided politically into three districts, namely the North, the Centre, and the South;

The North District is formed of two Municipalities that of the Island of Mujeres, the Capital of the District, with which is incorporated the so called Commissaries of Puerto Morelos and Yalahau or Holbox, and also the Island of Cozumel.

The Centre District is formed of two Municipalities those of Santa Cruz de Bravo, the Capital of both the District and the Territory and Vigia Chico, together with five commissaries Petcacah, Yonotdzonot, Sconchen, Tabi, and Sabán.

The Southern District is composed of three Municipalities, Payo Obispo the Capital of the District, Bacalar and Xcalak, together with four commisaries Santa Cruz Chico, Ramonal, Estevez, and Rio Wash. Each district has its legal tribunal, but the Judge of the District of Yucatan imparts so called Federal Justice.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the first notes in these pages were compiled, it is only fair to state that here as elsewhere many improvements have been effected and to no place should these remarks more particularly apply than to Progreso, where the original sandbank to which allusion has been made, is rapidly becoming metamorphised into a very neat city, the result is, that the improvements recently effected merit the sincerest admiration, and constitute the place fully deserving of its name. Trees of various descriptions are rapidly assuming important growth and affording most welcome shade. A fine block of commercial buildings has recently gone up, besides numerous private residences of an appropriate description are being erected, it might here be stated that house rents in Progreso, during the summer season seem unusually high, one very ordinary building letting for as much as thirty two pounds sterling a month, but it is understood that houses are in great demand at the time, and almost any rent can be obtained.

The Electric Lighting and Power Installation is of no mean order, and now Pretty Gardens, Plazas containing beautiful plants and trees. together with Cement Sidewalks are becoming visible where least expected. There is no doubt from present appearances that Progreso is destined to soon become a very creditable city and important port, as it is now publicly stated that two of piers are to be carried out to deep water, allowing vessels drawing thirty feet of water to lie alongside, thus enabling quick despatch, which up to the present time has been an impossibility.

In a very incomprehensible manner an important chapter on the Ruins of Chichen Itzá was omitted in its proper place, and now has to be inserted as an aftermath, it is a very regrettable oversight, but fortunately has been discovered before these pages were

CHICHEN ITZA. Chin-chan-chob or the Red House.

delivered into the hands of the binder. On leaving the Caracol or Circular building alluded to on pages 70 and 71, and continuing on our bridle path, we arrive at a beautiful little building of which we give illustrations, and which is called by the natives: Chichanchob, meaning in Spanish Casa Colorada, and in English Red House, and also Prison, it is most probably the most perfect existing unit of ancient Maya architecture in existence.

The terrace is sixty two feet long by fifty five feet wide, and is still in good preservation, the staircase leading up to it is twenty five feet wide and almost intact. Stephens remarks that when he approached it, a cow was quietly coming down the steps, perhaps had been there before, and knew the road led to good grazing.

The edifice itself measures forty three feet in the front, with a depth of twenty three feet, and is strong and substantial, the angles and façades remaining almost perfect. It has been richly ornamented but the details are now showing considerable decay.

It has three doorways which open into the corridor, running the whole width of the structure, and along the top of the back wall is a stone tablet with a row of hieroglyphics extending its entire length, many are so defaced that they cannot be copied we therefore do not give the fruits of our work, considering them so defective as to be practically without interest it also has a back corridor from which entrance into three rooms is effected, all of which retain signs of having been painted.

Within the chambers some of the wooden cross beams are still in place, remains of mural painting on the hard finished walls are evident, although almost defaced, but the long band of well carved hieroglyphics opposite the doors are as perfect and delicately clear as if only recently executed.

Two hundred feet from the last building are the remains of a structure with three rooms and a terrace

platform sixty four feet square they are all thoroughly dilapidated but the view from the platform is considered very picturesque.

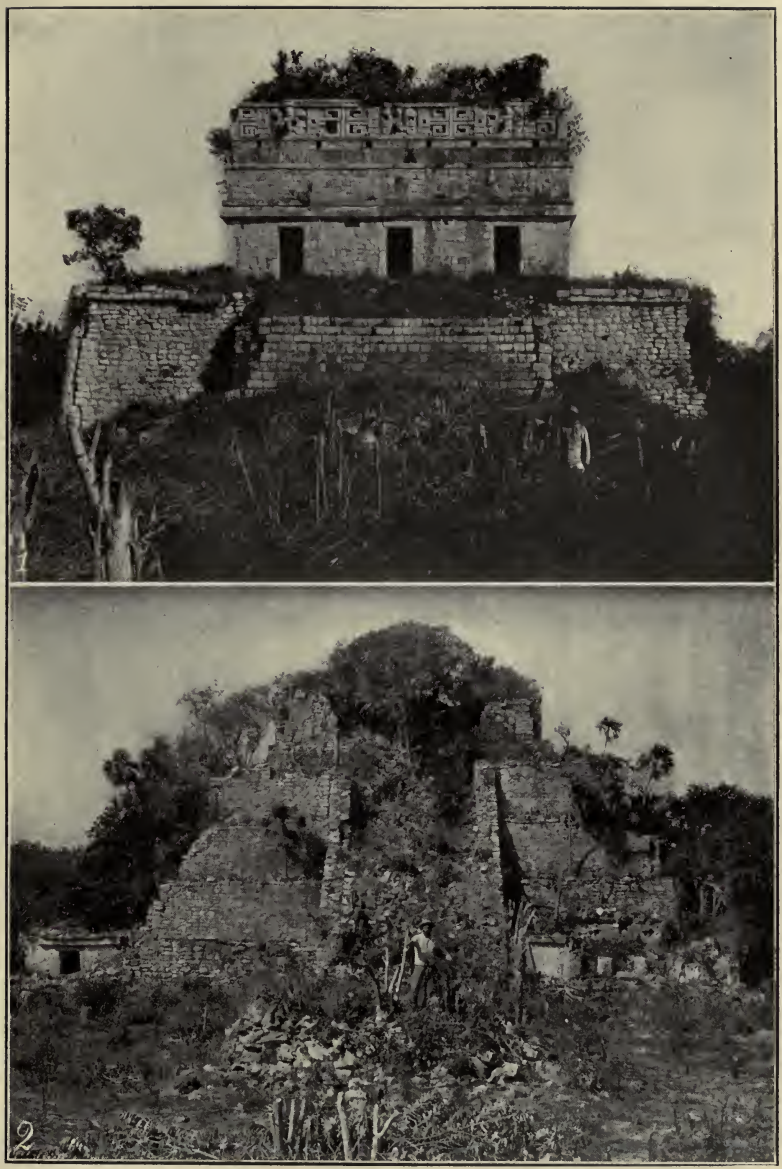
All these buildings are within three hundred yards of the staircase of the Monjas and in full sight, the buildings, staircases, and terraces were it is true overgrown but now things are vastly different the Governments has their care and preservation on its mind, and the ruins are now being kept quite clear of vegetable growth and destructive influences.

On leaving these latterly described buildings on our way to three important edifices, that still remain to call our attention, we come amongst numerous mounds all bearing vestiges of ruins, colossal stones and fragments of sculpture but so dilapidated as to be impossible to describe or present in comprehensible detail.

Continuing our road in a North Eastern direction, for very nearly a quarter of a mile, we arrive at and cross the Public Road, and arrive at the Building of the Many Columns as described on Page 72.

And in conclusion, should any of the excellent views to be found in this collection, excite the cupidity of readers, it is only in fairness we give the names of the photographers, Messrs Guerra & Son, Calle 63, Nº 514, Merida, who have been very painstaking in rendering assistance in the publication of these notes, and who will readily comply with any demands with which they may be favoured.

THE END.



1. CHICHEN ITZA. The Chi-Chan-Chob.
The most perfect building extant in the ruined groups.
2. EL MECO. Pyramid temple.

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